

THE
QUEEN'S WAKE:

A
Legendary Poem,

BY
JAMES HOGG.

*Be mine to read the visions old,
Which thy awakening Bards have told;
And whilst they meet my tranced view,
Hold each strange tale devoutly true.*

COLLINS.

THIRD EDITION.

EDINBURGH:

Printed by James Ballantyne and Co.

FOR GEORGE GOLDIE, 34, PRINCE'S STREET, EDINBURGH;

AND

HENRY COLBURN, 50, CONDUIT STREET,

LONDON.

1814.

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THE

QUEEN'S WALK

A

Original Manuscript

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4791

JAMES HOGG

Q45

1814

He went to read the vision old,
Which thy countenance, friends have told;
And whilst they were my friends were,
Held each other's tale of love and strife.

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EDINBURGH:

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HON. GEORGE GOLDIE, ESQ. PRINTER, EDINBURGH;

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III



TO
HER ROYAL HIGHNESS
PRINCESS CHARLOTTE OF WALES,
A SHEPHERD
AMONG
THE MOUNTAINS OF SCOTLAND,
DEDICATES
THIS POEM.



PRESENTED TO THE ROYAL HIGHNESS

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS

PRINCESS CHARLOTTE OF WALES

A SHEPHERD

NIGHT THE SECOND

AMONG

THE MOUNTAINS OF SCOTLAND

DEDICATED

TO THE ROYAL HIGHNESS

PRINCESS CHARLOTTE OF WALES

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ADVERTISEMENT.

THE *Publisher* having been favoured with letters from gentlemen in various parts of the United Kingdom respecting the *Author* of the *QUEEN'S WAKE*, and most of them expressing doubts of his being a Scotch Shepherd, he takes this opportunity of assuring the Public, that *THE QUEEN'S WAKE* is really and truly the production of *JAMES HOGG*, a common Shepherd, bred among the mountains of *Ettrick Forest*, who went to service when only seven years of age ; and since that period has never received any education whatever. Upon the consistency of this statement, with the merits of the following *Work*, it does not become him to make any observation ; all he wishes to say is, that it is strictly true, which he states upon the best of all possible authority—his own knowledge.

Upon answering one of the letters above alluded to, he received another, with the following *Verses* inclosed, which he takes the liberty to insert, judging, that their intrinsic merit, as well as the allusions to the different ballads which they contain, render them a suitable accompaniment to the present edition of the *Work*.

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE *Illustrations* having been presented with letters from gentlemen in various parts of the United Kingdom respecting the author of the *Queen's Wake*, and most of them expressing doubts of its being a Scotch production, he takes the opportunity of answering the Public, that *The Queen's Wake* is really and truly the production of James Haig, a country Shepherd, bred among the mountains of northern Scotland, who went to service when only seven years of age; and that that period has never terminated his education whatever. Upon the consistency of this statement, with the merits of the following *Work*, it does not become him to make any observations; all he wishes to say is, that it is strictly true, which he states upon the best of all possible authority—his own knowledge.

Upon answering one of the letters above alluded to, he received another, with the following *Letter* printed, which he takes the liberty to insert, giving, and their initials, as well as the reference to the different editions which they contain, so that there is suitable acknowledgment to the several patrons of the

Work.

1

STANZAS

ADDRESSED TO

THE ETTRICK SHEPHERD,

ON THE PUBLICATION OF

THE QUEEN'S WAKE.

By B. BARTON, Esq. WOODBRIDGE, SUFFOLK.

SHEPHERD of Ettrick ! as of yore
To humble swains the Seraphs sung,
Again, though now unseen, they pour
Their hallow'd strains from mortal tongue.

For O ! celestial are the tones
The minstrel strikes to Malcolm's sorrow ;
When Jura, echoing back his moans,
Claims the lost maiden of Glen-ora.

Soft dies the strain ; the cords now ring,
Swept by a more impetuous hand ;
Indignant Gardyn strikes the string,
And terror chills the listening band.

Now from the cliffs of old Cairn-gorm,
 Dark gathering clouds the tempest bring ;
 He comes, the Spirit of the Storm !
 And at the rustling of his wing,

The harp's wild notes, now high, now low,
 In varying cadence swell or fall,
 Like wintry winds in wild Glencoe,
 Or ruin'd Bothwell's roofless hall.

A wilder strain is wafted near
 As from the regions of the sky ;
 And where's the mortal that can hear
 Unmoved the Spectre's lullaby ?

To weave the due reward of praise
 For every rival bard were vain ;
 Nor suits an humble poet's lays,
 Who loves, yet fears a loftier strain.

Yet must I pause upon the tale
 Of that strange bark for Staffa bound ;
 Proudly she greets the morning gale,
 Proudly she sails from holy ground.

O, never yet has ship that traced
 The pathless bosom of the main,
 Been with such magic numbers graced,
 Or honour'd with so sweet a strain.

But who, that sees the morning rise
 Serenely bright, can tell the hour
 When the rough tempest of the skies
 Shall next display its awful power ?

And who, that sees the floating bark
 Sail forth obedient to the gale,
 Foresees the impending horrors dark,
 That swell the terror of the tale ?

Nor can I pass in silence by
 That favour'd maiden's wondrous doom,
 Who, 'neath a self-illuminated sky,
 Saw fields and flowers in endless bloom.

O heaven-taught Shepherd ! when or where
 Was that ethereal legend wrought ?
 What urged thee thus a flight to dare
 Through realms by former bards unsought ?

Say, hast thou, like Kilmeny, been
 Transported to the land of thought ;
 And thence, by minstrel vision keen,
 The fire of inspiration caught ?

It must be so : in cottage lone,
 To dreams of poesy resign'd,
 From Ettrick's banks thy soul has flown,
 And earth-born follies left behind.

Then through those scenes Kilmeny saw,
 In trance ecstatic hast thou roved,
 And witness'd, but with holy awe,
 What mortal fancy never proved.

O Shepherd ! since 'tis thine to boast
 The fascinating powers of song,
 Far, far above the countless host,
 Who swell the Muses' suppliant throng,

The GIFT OF GOD distrust no more,
 His inspiration be thy guide ;
 Be heard thy harp from shore to shore,
 Thy song's reward thy country's pride.

WOODBIDGE, April 21, 1813.

INTRODUCTION.

THE JOURNAL

INTRODUCTION.

Now burst, ye Winter clouds that lower,
Fling from your folds the piercing shower ;
Sing to the tower and leafless tree,
Ye cold winds of adversity ;
Your blights, your chilling influence shed,
On wareless heart, and houseless head,
Your ruth or fury I disdain,
I've found my Mountain Lyre again.

Come to my heart, my only stay !
Companion of a happier day !
Thou gift of heaven, thou pledge of good,
Harp of the mountain and the wood !

THE QUEEN'S WAKE.

I little thought, when first I tried
Thy notes by lone Saint Mary's side,
When in a deep untrodden den,
I found thee in the braken glen,
I little thought that idle toy
Should e'er become my only joy !

A maiden's youthful smiles had wove
Around my heart the toils of love,
When first thy magic wires I rung,
And on the breeze thy numbers flung.
The fervid tear played in mine eye;
I trembled, wept, and wondered why.
Sweet was the thrilling ecstasy :
I know not if 'twas love or thee.

Weened not my heart, when youth had flown
Friendship would fade, or fortune frown ;
When pleasure, love, and mirth were past,
That thou should'st prove my all at last !

INTRODUCTION.

3

Jeered by conceit and lordly pride,
I flung my soothing harp aside;
With wayward fortune strove a while;
Wrecked in a world of self and guile.
Again I sought the braken hill;
Again sat musing by the rill;
My wild sensations all were gone,
And only thou wert left alone.
Long hast thou in the moorland lain,
Now welcome to my heart again.

The russet weed of mountain gray
No more shall round thy border play;
No more the brake-flowers, o'er thee piled,
Shall mar thy tones and measures wild.
Harp of the Forest, thou shalt be
Fair as the bud on forest tree!
Sweet be thy strains, as those that swell
In Ettrick's green and fairy dell;
Soft as the breeze of falling even,
And purer than the dews of heaven.

Of minstrel honours, now no more;
Of bards, who sung in days of yore;
Of gallant chiefs, in courtly guise;
Of ladies' smiles, of ladies' eyes;
Of royal feasts and obsequies;
When Caledon, with look severe,
Saw Beauty's hand her sceptre bear,—
By cliff and haunted wild I'll sing,
Responsive to thy dulcet string.

When wanes the circling year away,
When scarcely smiles the doubtful day,
Fair daughter of Dunedin, say,
Hast thou not heard, at midnight deep,
Soft music on thy slumbers creep?
At such a time, if careless thrown
Thy slender form on couch of down,
Hast thou not felt, to nature true,
The tear steal from thine eye so blue?
If then thy guiltless bosom strove
In blissful dreams of conscious love,

INTRODUCTION.

And even shrunk from proffer bland
Of lover's visionary hand,
On such ecstatic dream when brake
The music of the midnight wake,
Hast thou not weened thyself on high,
List'ning to angels' melody,
'Scaped from a world of cares away,
To dream of love and bliss for aye?

The dream dispelled, the music gone,
Hast thou not, sighing, all alone,
Proffered thy vows to heaven, and then
Blest the sweet wake, and slept again?

Then list, ye maidens, to my lay,
Though old the tale, and past the day;
Those wakes, now played by minstrels poor,
At midnight's darkest, chilldest hour,
Those humble wakes, now scorned by all,
Were first begun in courtly hall,

When royal MARY, blithe of mood,
Kept holiday at Holyrood.

Scotland, involved in factious broils,
Groaned deep beneath her woes and toils,
And looked o'er meadow, dale, and lea,
For many a day her Queen to see ;
Hoping that then her woes would cease,
And all her vallies smile in peace.
The spring was past, the Summer gone ;
Still vacant stood the Scottish throne :
But scarce had Autumn's mellow hand
Waved her rich banner o'er the land,
When rang the shouts, from tower and tree,
That Scotland's Queen was on the sea.
Swift spread the news o'er down and dale,
Swift as the lively autumn gale ;
Away, away, it echoed still,
O'er many a moor and Highland hill,
Till rang each glen and verdant plain,
From Cheviot to the northern main.

Each bard attuned the loyal lay,
And for Dunedin hied away ;
Each harp was strung in woodland bower,
In praise of beauty's bonniest flower.
The chiefs forsook their ladies fair ;
The priest his beads and books of prayer ;
The farmer left his harvest day,
The shepherd all his flocks to stray ;
The forester forsook the wood,
And hasted on to Holyrood.

After a youth, by woes o'ercast,
After a thousand sorrows past,
The lovely Mary once again
Set foot upon her native plain ;
Kneeled on the pier with modest grace,
And turned to heaven her beauteous face.
'Twas then the caps in air were blended,
A thousand thousand shouts ascended ;
Shivered the breeze around the throng ;
Gray barrier cliffs the peals prolong ;

And every tongue gave thanks to heaven,
That Mary to their hopes was given.

Her comely form and graceful mien,
Bespoke the Lady and the Queen ;
The woes of one so fair and young,
Moved every heart and every tongue.
Driven from her home, a helpless child,
To brave the winds and billows wild ;
An exile bred in realms afar,
Amid commotions, broils, and war.
In one short year her hopes all crossed,—
A parent, husband, kingdom lost !
And all ere eighteen years had shed
Their honours o'er her royal head.
For such a Queen, the Stuarts' heir,
A Queen so courteous, young, and fair,
Who would not every foe defy !
Who would not stand ! who would not die !

Light on her airy steed she sprung,
Around with golden tassels hung,

No chieftain there rode half so free,
Or half so light and gracefully.
How sweet to see her ringlets pale
Wide waving in the southland gale,
Which through the broom-wood blossoms flew,
To fan her cheeks of rosy hue !
Whene'er it heaved her bosom's screen,
What beauties in her form were seen !
And when her courser's mane it swung,
A thousand silver bells were rung.
A sight so fair, on Scottish plain,
A Scot shall never see again.

When Mary turned her wondering eyes
On rocks that seemed to prop the skies ;
On palace, park, and battled pile ;
On lake, on river, sea, and isle ;
O'er woods and meadows bathed in dew,
To distant mountains wild and blue ;
She thought the isle that gave her birth,
The sweetest, wildest land on earth.

Slowly she ambled on her way
Amid her lords and ladies gay.
Priest, abbot, layman, all were there,
And Presbyter with look severe.
There rode the lords of France and Spain,
Of England, Flanders, and Lorraine,
While serried thousands round them stood,
From shore of Leith to Holyrood.

Though Mary's heart was light as air
To find a home so wild and fair ;
To see a gathered nation by,
And rays of joy from every eye ;
Though frequent shouts the welkin broke,
Though courtiers bowed and ladies spoke,
An absent look they oft could trace
Deep settled on her comely face.
Was it the thought, that all alone
She must support a rocking throne ?
That Caledonia's rugged land
Might scorn a Lady's weak command,

And the Red Lion's haughty eye
Scowl at a maiden's feet to lie ?

No ; 'twas the notes of Scottish song,
Soft pealing from the countless throng.
So mellowed came the distant swell,
That on her ravished ear it fell
Like dew of heaven, at evening close,
On forest flower or woodland rose.
For Mary's heart, to nature true,
The powers of song and music knew :
But all the choral measures bland,
Of anthems sung in southern land,
Appeared an useless pile of art,
Unfit to sway or melt the heart,
Compared with that which floated by,—
Her simple native melody.

As she drew nigh the Abbey stile,
She halted, reined, and bent the while :

She heard the Caledonian lyre
Pour forth its notes of runic fire:
But scarcely caught the ravished Queen,
The minstrel's song that flowed between;
Entranced upon the strain she hung,
'Twas thus the gray-haired minstrel sung.—

The Song.

“ O! Lady dear, fair is thy noon,
But man is like the inconstant moon:
Last night she smiled o'er lawn and lea;
That moon will change, and so will he.

“ Thy time, dear Lady, 's a passing shower;
Thy beauty is but a fading flower:
Watch thy young bosom, and maiden eye,
For the shower must fall, and the flowret die.”—

What ails my Queen? said good Argyle,
Why fades upon her cheek the smile?

Say, rears your steed too fierce and high?
Or sits your golden seat awry?—

Ah! no, my Lord! this noble steed,
Of Rouen's calm and generous breed,
Has borne me over hill and plain,
Swift as the dun-deer of the Seine.
But such a wild and simple lay,
Poured from the harp of minstrel gray,
My every sense away it stole,
And swayed a while my raptured soul.
O! say, my Lord, (for you must know
What strains along your vallies flow,
And all the hoards of Highland lore,)
Was ever song so sweet before?—

Replied the Earl, as round he flung,—
Feeble the strain that minstrel sung!
My royal Dame, if once you heard
The Scottish lay from Highland bard,

Then might you say, in raptures meet,
No song was ever half so sweet !

It nerves the arm of warrior wight
To deeds of more than mortal might ;
'Twill make the maid, in all her charms,
Fall weeping in her lover's arms.
'Twill charm the mermaid from the deep ;
Make mountain oaks to bend and weep ;
Thrill every heart with horrors dire,
And shape the breeze to forms of fire.

When poured from greenwood-bower at even,
'Twill draw the spirits down from heaven ;
And all the fays that haunt the wood,
To dance around in frantic mood,
And tune their mimic harps so boon
Beneath the cliff and midnight moon.
Ah ! yes, my Queen ! if once you heard
The Scottish lay from Highland bard,

Then might you say in raptures meet,
No song was ever half so sweet.—

Queen Mary lighted in the court ;
Queen Mary joined the evening's sport ;
Yet though at table all were seen,
To wonder at her air and mien ;
Though courtiers fawned and ladies sung,
Still in her ear the accents rung,—
“ *Watch thy young bosom and maiden eye,*
“ *For the shower must fall and the flowret die.*”
And much she wished to prove ere long,
The wonderous powers of Scottish song.

When next to ride the Queen was bound,
To view the lands and city round,
On high amid the gathered crowd,
A herald thus proclaim'd aloud :—

“ Peace, peace to Scotland's wasted vales,
To her dark heaths and Highland dales ;

To her brave sons of warlike mood,
To all her daughters fair and good ;
Peace o'er her ruined vales shall pour,
Like beam of heaven behind the shower.
Let every harp and echo ring ;
Let maidens smile and poets sing ;
For love and peace entwined shall sleep,
Calm as the moon-beam on the deep ;
By waving wood and wandering rill,
On purple heath and Highland hill.

“ The soul of warrior stern to charm,
And bigotry and rage disarm,
Our Queen commands, that every bard
Due honours have, and high regard.
If, to his song of rolling fire,
He join the Caledonian lyre,
And skill in legendary lore,
Still higher shall his honours soar.
For all the arts beneath the heaven,
That man has found, or God has given,

None draws the soul so sweet away,
As music's melting mystic lay;
Slight emblem of the bliss above,
It soothes the spirit all to love.

“ To cherish this attractive art,
To lull the passions, mend the heart,
And break the moping zealot's chains,
Hear what our lovely Queen ordains.

“ Each Caledonian bard must seek
Her courtly halls on Easter week,
That then the royal wake may be
Cheered by their thrilling minstrelsy.
No ribaldry the Queen must hear,
No song unmeet for maiden's ear,
No jest, nor adulation bland,
But legends of our native land ;
And he whom most the court regards,
High be his honours and rewards.

Let every Scottish bard give ear,
Let every Scottish bard appear ;
He then before the court must stand,
In native garb, with harp in hand.
At home no minstrel dare to tarry :
High the behest.—God save Queen Mary !”

Little recked they, that countless throng
Of music's power or minstrel's song ;
But crowding their young Queen around,
Whose stately courser pawed the ground,
Her beauty more their wonder swayed,
Than all the noisy herald said ;
Judging the proffer all in sport,
An idle whim of idle court.
But many a bard preferred his prayer ;
For many a Scottish bard was there.
Quaked each fond heart with raptures strong,
Each thought upon his harp and song ;
And turning home without delay,
Coned his wild strain by mountain gray.

Each glen was sought for tales of old,
Of luckless love, of warrior bold,
Of ravished maid, or stolen child
By freakish fairy of the wild ;
Of sheeted ghost, that had revealed
Dark deeds of guilt from man concealed ;
Of boding dreams, of wandering spright,
Of dead-lights glimmering through the night.
Yea, every tale of ruth or weir,
Could waken pity, love, or fear,
Were decked anew, with anxious pain,
And sung to native airs again.

Alas ! those lays of fire once more
Are wrecked 'mid heaps of mouldering lore !
And feeble he who dares presume
That heavenly wake-light to relume.
But, grieved the legendary lay
Should perish from our land for aye,
While sings the lark above the wold,
'And all his flocks rest in the fold,

Fondly he strikes, beside the pen,
The harp of Yarrow's braken glen.

December came ; his aspect stern
Glared deadly o'er the mountain cairn ;
A polar sheet was round him flung,
And ice-spears at his girdle hung ;
O'er frigid field, and drifted cone,
He strode undaunted and alone ;
Or, throned amid the Grampians gray,
Kept thaws and suns of heaven at bay.

Not stern December's fierce controul
Could quench the flame of minstrel's soul :
Little recked they, our bards of old,
Of Autumn's showers, or Winter's cold.
Sound slept they on the nighted hill,
Lulled by the winds or babbling rill :
Curtained within the Winter cloud ;
The heath their couch, the sky their shroud.

Yet their's the strains that touch the heart,
Bold, rapid, wild, and void of art.

Unlike the bards, whose milky lays
Delight in these degenerate days :
Their crystal spring, and heather brown,
Is changed to wine and couch of down ;
Effeminate as lady gay,—
Such as the bard, so is his lay !

But then was seen, from every vale,
Through drifting snows and rattling hail,
Each Caledonian minstrel true,
Dressed in his plaid and bonnet blue,
With harp across his shoulders slung,
And music murmuring round his tongue,
Forcing his way, in raptures high,
To Holyrood his skill to try.

Ah ! when at home the songs they raised,
When gaping rustics stood and gazed,

Each bard believed, with ready will,
Unmatched his song, unmatched his skill !
But when the royal halls appeared,
Each aspect changed, each bosom feared ;
And when in court of Holyrood
Filed harps and bards around him stood,
His eye emitted cheerless ray,
His hope, his spirit sunk away :
There stood the minstrel, but his mind
Seemed left in native glen behind.

Unknown to men of sordid heart,
What joys the poet's hopes impart ;
Unknown, how his high soul is torn
By cold neglect, or canting scorn :
That meteor torch of mental light,
A breath can quench, or kindle bright.
Oft has that mind, which braved serene
The shafts of poverty and pain,
The Summer toil, the Winter blast,
Fallen victim to a frown at last.

Easy the boon he asks of thee ;

O ! spare his heart in courtesy !

There rolled each bard his anxious eye,
Or strode his adversary by.

No cause was there for names to scan,
Each minstrel's plaid bespoke his clan ;
And the blunt borderer's plain array,
The bonnet broad and blanket gray.

Bard sought of bard a look to steal ;
Eyes measured each from head to heel.

Much wonder rose, that men so famed,
Men save with rapture never named,
Looked only so,—they could not tell,—
Like other men, and scarce so well.

Though keen the blast, and long the way,
When twilight closed that dubious day,
When round the table all were set,
Small heart had they to talk or eat ;
Red look askance, blunt whisper low,
Awkward remark, uncourtly bow,

Were all that past in that bright throng,
That group of genuine sons of song.

One did the honours of the board,
Who seemed a courtier or a lord.
Strange his array and speech withal,
Gael deemed him southern—southern, Gael.
Courteous his mien, his accents weak,
Lady in manner as in make;
Yet round the board a whisper ran,
That that same gay and simpering man
A minstrel was of wonderful fame,
Who from a distant region came,
To bear the prize beyond the sea
To the green shores of Italy.

The wine was served, and, sooth to say,
Insensibly it stole away.
Thrice did they drain th' allotted store,
And wondering skinkers dun for more;

Which vanished swifter than the first,—
Little weened they the poets' thirst.

Still as that ruddy juice they drained,
The eyes were cleared, the speech regained ;
And latent sparks of fancy glowed,
Till one abundant torrent flowed
Of wit, of humour, social glee,
Wild music, mirth, and revelry.

Just when a jest had thrilled the crowd,
Just when the laugh was long and loud,
Entered a squire with summons smart ;—
That was the knell that pierced the heart :—
“ The court awaits ;”—he bowed—was gone,—
Our bards sat changed to busts of stone.
As ever ye heard the green-wood dell,
On morn of June one warbled swell,
If burst the thunder from on high,
How hushed the woodland melody !

Even so our bards sunk at the view
Of what they wished, and what they knew.

Their numbers given, the lots were cast,
To fix the names of first and last ;
Then to the dazzling hall were led,
Poor minstrels less alive than dead.

There such a scene entranced the view,
As heart of poet never knew.
'Twas not the flash of golden gear,
Nor blaze of silver chandelier ;
Not Scotland's chiefs of noble air,
Nor dazzling rows of ladies fair ;
'Twas one enthroned the rest above,—
Sure 'twas the Queen of grace and love !
Taper the form, and fair the breast
Yon radiant golden zones invest,
Where the vexed rubies blench in death,
Beneath yon lips and balmy breath.

Coronal gems of every dye,
Look dim above yon beaming eye ;
Yon cheeks outvie the dawning's glow,
Red shadowed on a wreath of snow.

Oft the rapt bard had thought alone,
Of charms by mankind never known ;
Of virgins, pure as opening day,
Or bosom of the flower of May :
Oft dreamed of beings free from stain,
Of maidens of the emerald main,
Of fairy dames in grove at even,
Of angels in the walks of heaven :
But, nor in earth, the sea, nor sky,
In fairy dream, nor fancy's eye,
Vision his soul had ever seen
Like MARY STUART, Scotland's Queen.



THE
QUEEN'S WAKE.

NIGHT THE FIRST.

THE
QUEEN'S WAKE.

NIGHT THE FIRST.

HUSHED was the Court—the courtiers gazed—
Each eye was bent, each soul amazed,
To see that group of genuine worth,
Those far-famed minstrels of the north.
So motley wild their garments seemed ;
Their eyes, where tints of madness gleamed,
Fired with impatience every breast,
And expectation stood confest.

Short was the pause ; the stranger youth,
The gaudy minstrel of the south,
Whose glossy eye and lady form
Had never braved the northern storm,
Stepped lightly forth,—kneeled three times low,—
And then, with many a smile and bow,
Mounted the form amid the ring,
And rung his harp's responsive string.
Though true the chords, and mellow-toned,
Long, long he twisted, long he coned ;
Well pleased to hear his name they knew ;
“ 'Tis Rizzio !” round in whispers flew.

Valet with Parma's knight he came,
An angler in the tides of fame ;
And oft had tried, with anxious pain,
Respect of Scotland's Queen to gain.
Too well his eye, with searching art,
Perceived her fond, her wareless heart ;
And though unskilled in Scottish song,
Her notice he had wooed so long ;

With pain by night, and care by day,
He framed this fervid, flowery lay.—

Malcolm of Lorn.

THE FIRST BARD'S SONG.

I.

Came ye by Ora's verdant steep,
That smiles the restless ocean over ?
Heard ye a suffering maiden weep ?
Heard ye her name a faithful lover ?
Saw ye an aged matron stand
O'er yon green grave above the strand,
Bent like the trunk of withered tree,
Or yon old thorn that sips the sea ?
Fixed her dim eye, her face as pale
As the mists that o'er her flew :
Her joy is fled like the flower of the vale,
Her hope like the morning dew !
That matron was lately as proud of her stay,
As the mightiest monarch of sceptre or sway :

O list to the tale ! 'tis a tale of soft sorrow,
Of Malcolm of Lorn, and young Ann of Glen-Ora.

II.

The sun is sweet at early morn,
Just blushing from the ocean's bosom ;
The rose that decks the woodland thorn
Is fairest in its opening blossom ;
Sweeter than opening rose in dew,
Than vernal flowers of richest hue,
Than fragrant birch or weeping willow,
Than red sun resting on the billow ;
Sweeter than aught to mortals given
The heart and soul to prove ;
Sweeter than aught beneath the heaven,
The joys of early love !
Never did maiden, and manly youth,
Love with such fervor, and love with such truth ;
Or pleasures and virtues alternately borrow,
As Malcolm of Lorn, and fair Ann of Glen-Ora.

III.

The day is come, the dreaded day,

Must part two loving hearts for ever ;

The ship lies rocking in the bay,

The boat comes rippling up the river :

O happy has the gloaming's eye

In green Glen-Ora's bosom seen them !

But soon shall lands and nations lie,

And angry oceans roll between them.

Yes, they must part, for ever part ;

Chill falls the truth on either heart ;

For honour, titles, wealth, and state,

In distant lands her sire await.

The maid must with her sire away,

She cannot stay behind ;

Strait to the south the pennons play,

And steady is the wind.

Shall Malcolm relinquish the home of his youth,

And sail with his love to the lands of the south ?

Ah, no ! for his father is gone to the tomb :

One parent survives in her desolate home !

No child but her Malcolm to cheer her lone way :
Break not her fond heart, gentle Malcolm, O,
stay !

IV.

The boat impatient leans ashore,
Her prow sleeps on a sandy pillow ;
The rower leans upon his oar,
Already bent to brush the billow.
O ! Malcolm, view yon melting eyes,
With tears yon stainless roses steeping !
O ! Malcolm, list thy mother's sighs ;
She's leaning o'er her staff and weeping !
Thy Anna's heart is bound to thine,
And must that gentle heart repine !
Quick from the shore the boat must fly ;
Her soul is speaking through her eye ;
Think of thy joys in Ora's shade ;
From Anna canst thou sever ?
Think of the vows thou often hast made,
To love the dear maiden for ever.

And canst thou forego such beauty and youth,
Such maiden honour and spotless truth ?
Forbid it !—He yields ; to the boat he draws nigh.
Haste, Malcolm, aboard, and revert not thine eye.

V.

That trembling voice, in murmurs weak,
Comes not to blast the hopes before thee ;
For pity, Malcolm, turn, and take
A last farewell of her that bore thee.
She says no word to mar thy bliss ;
A last embrace, a parting kiss,
Her love deserves ;—then be thou gone ;
A mother's joys are thine alone.
Friendship may fade, and fortune prove
Deceitful to thy heart ;
But never can a mother's love
From her own offspring part.
That tender form, now bent and gray,
Shall quickly sink to her native clay ;

Then who shall watch her parting breath,
And shed a tear o'er her couch of death?
Who follow the dust to its long long home,
And lay that head in an honoured tomb?

VI.

Oft hast thou, to her bosom prest,
For many a day about been borne;
Oft hushed and cradled on her breast,
And canst thou leave that breast forlorn?
O'er all thy ails her heart has bled;
Oft has she watched beside thy bed;
Oft prayed for thee in dell at even,
Beneath the pitying stars of heaven.
Ah! Malcolm, ne'er was parent yet
So tender, so benign!
Never was maid so loved, so sweet,
Nor soul so rent as thine!
He looked to the boat,—slow she heaved from the
shore;
He saw his loved Anna all speechless implore:

But, grasped by a cold and a trembling hand,
He clung to his parent, and sunk on the strand.

VII.

The boat across the tide flew fast,
And left a silver curve behind ;
Loud sung the sailor from the mast,
Spreading his sails before the wind.
The stately ship, adown the bay,
A corslet framed of heaving snow,
And flurred on high the slender spray,
Till rainbows gleamed around her prow.
How strained was Malcolm's watery eye,
Yon fleeting vision to descry !
But, ah ! her lessening form so fair,
Soon vanished in the liquid air.
Away to Ora's headland steep
The youth retired the while,
And saw th' un pitying vessel sweep
Around yon Highland isle.

His heart and his mind with that vessel had gone ;
His sorrow was deep, and despairing his moan,
When, lifting his eyes from the green heaving
deep,

He prayed the Almighty his Anna to keep.

VIII.

High o'er the crested cliffs of Lorn

The curlew coned her wild bravura ;

The sun, in pall of purple borne,

Was hastening down the steeps of Jura.

The glowing ocean heaved her breast,

Her wandering lover's glances under ;

And shewed his radiant form, imprest

Deep in a wavy world of wonder.

Not all the ocean's dyes at even,

Though varied as the bow of heaven ;

The countless isles so dusky blue,

Nor medley of the gray curlew,

Could light on Malcolm's spirit shed ;

Their glory all was gone !
For his joy was fled, his hope was dead,
And his heart forsaken and lone.
The sea-bird sought her roofless nest,
To warm her brood with her downy breast ;
And near her home, on the margin dun,
A mother weeps o'er her duteous son.

IX.

One little boat alone is seen
On all the lovely dappled main,
That softly sinks the waves between,
Then vaults their heaving breasts again ;
With snowy sail, and rower's sweep,
Across the tide she seems to fly.
Why bears she on yon headland steep,
Where neither house nor home is nigh ?
Is that a vision from the deep
That springs ashore and scales the steep,
Nor ever stays its ardent haste
Till sunk upon young Malcolm's breast !

O! spare that breast so lowly laid,

So fraught with deepest sorrow!

It is his own, his darling maid,

Young Anna of Glen-Ora!—

“My Malcolm! part we ne’er again!

My father saw thy bosom’s pain;

Pitied my grief from thee to sever;

Now I, and Glen-Ora, am thine for ever!”—

X.

That blaze of joy, through clouds of woe,

Too fierce upon his heart did fall.

But, ah! the shaft had left the bow,

Which power of man could not recall!

No word of love could Malcolm speak;

No raptured kiss his lips impart;

No tear bedewed his shivering cheek,

To ease the grasp that held his heart.

His arms essayed one kind embrace—

Will they enclose her? never! never!

A smile set softly on his face,
But ah ! the eye was set for ever !—
'Twas more than broken heart could brook !
How throbs that breast !—How glazed that look !
One shiver more !—All ! all is o'er !—
As melts the wave on level shore ;
As fades the dye of falling even,
Far on the silver verge of heaven ;
As on thy ear, the minstrel's lay,—
So died the comely youth away."

The strain died soft in note of woe,
Nor breath nor whisper 'gan to flow
From courtly circle ; all as still
As midnight on the lonely hill.
So well that foreign minstrel's strain
Had mimicked passion, woe, and pain,
Seemed even the chilly hand of death
Stealing away his mellow breath.
So sighed—so stopp'd—so died his lay,—
His spirit too seemed fled for aye.

'Tis true, the gay attentive throng
Admired, but loved not much, his song :
Admired his wondrous voice and skill,
His harp that thrilled or wept at will.
But that affected gaudy rhyme,
The querulous keys, and changing chime,
Scarce could the Highland chieftain brook :
Disdain seemed kindling in his look,
That song so vapid, artful, terse,
Should e'er compete with Scottish verse.

But she, the fairest of the fair,
Who sat enthroned in gilded chair,
Well skilled in foreign minstrelsy,
And artful airs of Italy,
Listened his song, with raptures wild,
And on the happy minstrel smiled.
Soon did the wily stranger's eye
The notice most he wished espy,
Then poured his numbers bold and free,
Fired by the grace of majesty ;

And when his last notes died away,
When sunk in well-feigned death he lay,
When round the crowd began to ring,
Thinking his spirit on the wing,—
First of the dames she came along,
Wept, sighed, and marvelled 'mid the throng.
And when they raised him, it was said
The beauteous Sovereign deigned her aid;
And in her hands, so soft and warm,
Upheld the minstrel's hand and arm.
Then oped his eye with rapture fired;
He smiled, and, bowing oft, retired;
Pleased he so soon had realized,
What more than gold or fame he prized.

Next in the list was Gardyn's name:
No sooner called than forth he came.
Stately he strode, nor bow made he,
Nor even a look of courtesy.
The simpering cringe, and fawning look,
Of him who late the lists forsook,

Roused his proud heart, and fired his eye,
That glowed with native dignity.

Full sixty years the bard had seen,
Yet still his manly form and mien,
His garb of ancient Caledon,
Where lines of silk and scarlet shone,
And golden garters 'neath his knee,
Announced no man of mean degree.

Upon his harp, of wondrous frame,
Was carved his lineage and his name.
There stood the cross that name above,
Fair emblem of almighty love;
Beneath rose an embossment proud,
A rose beneath a thistle bowed.

Lightly upon the form he sprung,
And his bold harp impetuous rung.
Not one by one the chords he tried,
But brushed them o'er from side to side,

With either hand, so rapid, loud,
Shook were the halls of Holyrood.
Then in a mellow tone, and strong,
He poured this wild and dreadful song.—

Young Kennedy.

THE SECOND BARD'S SONG.

I.

When the gusts of October had rifled the thorn,
Had dappled the woodland, and umbered the plain,
In den of the mountain was Kennedy born :

There hushed by the tempest, baptized with the rain.
His cradle, a mat that swung light on the oak ;
His couch, the sear mountain-fern, spread on the rock ;
The white knobs of ice from the chilled nipple hung,
And loud winter-torrents his lullaby sung.

II.

Unheeded he shivered, unheeded he cried ;
Soon died on the breeze of the forest his moan.
To his wailings, the weary wood-echo replied ;
His watcher, the wondering redbreast alone.

Oft gazed his young eye on the whirl of the storm,
And all the wild shades that the desert deform ;
From cleft in the correi, which thunders had riven,
It oped on the pale fleeting billows of heaven.

III.

The nursling of misery, young Kennedy learned
His hunger, his thirst, and his passions to feed :
With pity for others his heart never yearned,—
Their pain was his pleasure,—their sorrow his meed.
His eye was the eagle's, the twilight his hue ;
His stature like pine of the hill where he grew ;
His soul was the neal-fire, inhaled from his den,
And never knew fear, save for ghost of the glen.

IV.

His father a chief, for barbarity known,
Proscribed, and by gallant Macdougall expelled ;
Where rolls the dark Teith through the valley of Down,
The conqueror's menial, he toiled in the field.

His master he loved not, obeyed with a scowl,
Scarce smothered his hate, and his rancour of soul;
When challenged, his eye and his colour would change,
His proud bosom nursing and planning revenge.

V.

Matilda, ah ! woe that the wild rose's dye,
Shed over thy maiden cheek, caused thee to rue !
O ! why was the sphere of thy love-rolling eye
Inlaid with the diamond, and dipt in the dew !
Thy father's sole daughter ; his hope, and his care ;
The child of his age, and the child of his prayer ;
And thine was the heart, that was gentle and kind,
And light as the feather, that sports in the wind.

VI.

To her home, from the Lowlands, Matilda returned ;
All fair was her form, and untainted her mind.
Young Kennedy saw her, his appetite burned
As fierce as the moor-flame impelled by the wind.

Was it love ? No, the ray his dark soul never knew,
That spark which eternity burns to renew.
'Twas the flash of desire, kindled fierce by revenge,
Which savages feel the brown desert that range

VII.

Sweet woman ! too well is thy tenderness known ;
Too often deep sorrow succeeds thy love-smile ;
Too oft, in a moment, thy peace overthrown,—
Fair butt of delusion, of passion, and guile !
What heart will not bleed for Matilda so gay,
To art and to long perseverance a prey ?
Why sings yon scared blackbird in sorrowful mood,
Why blushes the daisy deep in the green-wood ?

VIII.

Sweet woman ! with virtue, thou'rt lofty, thou'rt free ;
Yield that, thou'rt a slave, and the mark of disdain :
No blossom of spring is beleaguered like thee,
Though brushed by the lightning, the wind, and the rain.

Matilda is fallen ! With tears in her eye,
She seeks her destroyer ; but only can sigh.
Matilda is fallen, and sorrow her doom,
The flower of the valley is nipt in the bloom.

IX.

Ah ! Kennedy, vengeance hangs over thine head !
Escape to thy native Glengary forlorn.
Why art thou at midnight away from thy bed ?
Why quakes thy big heart at the break of the morn ?
Why chatters yon magpie on gable so loud ?
Why flits yon light vision in gossamer shroud ?
How came yon white doves from the window to fly,
And hover on weariless wing to the sky ?

X.

Yon pie is the prophet of terror and death ;
O'er Abel's green arbour that omen was given.
Yon pale boding phantom, a messenger wraith ;
Yon doves, two fair angels commissioned of heaven.

The sun is in state, and the reapers in motion ;
Why were they not called to their morning devotion ?
Why slumbers Macdougall so long in his bed ?
Ah ! pale on his couch the old chieftain lies dead !

XI.

Though grateful the hope to the death-bed that flies,
That lovers and friends o'er our ashes will weep ;
The soul, when released from her lingering ties,
In secret may see if their sorrows are deep.
Who wept for the worthy Macdougall ?—Not one !
His darling Matilda, who, two months ago,
Would have mourned for her father in sorrow extreme,
Indulged in a painful delectable dream.

XII.

But, why do the matrons, while dressing the dead,
Sit silent, and look as if something they knew ?
Why gaze on the features ? Why move they the head,
And point at the bosom so dappled and blue ?

Say, was there foul play?—Then, why sleeps the red thunder?
Ah! hold, for Suspicion stands silent with wonder:
The body's entomb'd, and the green turf laid over,—
Matilda is wed to her dark Highland lover.

XIII.

Yes, the new moon that stooped over green Aberfoyle,
And shed her light dew on a father's new grave,
Beheld, in her wane, the gay wedding turmoil,
And lighted the bride to her chamber at eve:
Blue, blue was the heaven; and, o'er the wide scene,
A vapoury silver veil floated serene,
A fairy perspective, that bore from the eye
Wood, mountain, and meadow, in distance to lie.

XIV.

The scene was so still, it was all like a vision;
The lamp of the moon seemed as fading for ever:
'Twas awfully soft, without shade or elision;
And nothing was heard but the rush of the river.

But why won't the bride-maidens walk on the lea,
Nor lovers steal out to the sycamore tree?
Why turn to the hall with those looks of confusion?
There's nothing abroad!—'tis a dream!—a delusion!

XV.

But why do the horses snort over their food,
And cling to the manger in seeming dismay?
What scares the old owlet afar to the wood?
Why screams the blue heron, as hastening away?
Say, why is the dog hid so deep in his cover?
Each window barred up, and the curtain drawn over;
Each white maiden bosom still heaving so high,
And fix'd on another each fear-speaking eye?

XVI.

'Tis all an illusion! the lamp let us trim!
Come, rouse thee, old minstrel, to strains of renown;
The old cup is empty, fill round to the brim,
And drink the young pair to their chamber just gone.

Ha ! why is the cup from the lip ta'en away ?
 Why fix'd every form like a statue of clay ?
 Say, whence is that noise and that horrible clamour ?
 Oh, heavens ! it comes from the marriage bed-chamber.

XVII.

O ! haste thee, Strath-Allan, Glen-Ogle, away,
 These outcries betoken wild horror and woe ;
 The dull ear of midnight is stunned with dismay ;
 Glen-Ogle ! Strath-Allan ! fly swift as the roe.
 Mid darkness and death, on eternity's brim,
 You stood with Macdonald and Archbald the grim ;
 Then why do you hesitate ? why do you stand
 With claymore unsheathed, and red taper in hand ?

XVIII.

The tumult is o'er ; not a murmur nor groan ;
 What footsteps so madly pace through the saloon ?
 'Tis Kennedy, naked and ghastly alone,
 Who hies him away by the light of the moon.

All prostrate and bleeding, Matilda they found,
The threshold her pillow, her couch the cold ground;
Her features distorted, her colour the clay,
Her feelings, her voice, and her reason away.

XIX.

Ere morn they returned; but how well had they never!
They brought with them horror too deep to sustain;
Returned but to chasten, and vanish for ever,
To harrow the bosom and fever the brain.
List, list to her tale, youth, levity, beauty;—
O! sweet is the path of devotion and duty!—
When pleasure smiles sweetest, dread danger and death,
And think of Matilda, the flower of the Teith.

XX.

The Bride's Tale.

“I had just laid me down, but no word could I pray;
I had pillowed my head, and drawn up the bed-cover;
I thought of the bed where my loved father lay,
So damp and so cold, with the grass growing over.

I turned to my husband ; but just as he spread
His arms to enfold me, we saw round the bed,
A ghastly refulgence as bright as day-noon,
Though shut was the chamber from eye of the moon.

XXI.

“ Bestower of being ! in pity, O ! hide
That sight from the eye of my spirit for ever ;
That page from the volume of memory divide,
Or memory and being eternally sever !
My father approached ; our bed-curtains he drew ;
Ah ! well the gray locks and pale features I knew.
I saw his fixt eye-balls indignantly glow ;
Yet still in that look there was pity and woe.

XXII.

“ O ! hide thee, my daughter, he eagerly cried ;
O haste from the bed of that parricide lover !
Embrace not thy husband, unfortunate bride,
Thy red cup of misery already runs over.

He strangled thy father ! thy guilt paved the way ;
Thy heart yet is blameless, O fly while you may !
Thy portion of life must calamity leaven ;
But fly while there's hope of forgiveness from heaven.

XXIII.

“ And thou, fell destroyer of virtue and life !
O ! well may'st thou quake at thy terrible doom ;
For body or soul, with barbarity rife,
On earth is no refuge, in heaven no room.
Fly whither thou wilt, I will follow thee still,
To dens of the forest, or mists of the hill ;
The task I'm assigned, which I'll never forego,
But chace thee from earth to thy dwelling below.

XXIV.

“ The cave shall not cover, the cloud shall not hide thee ;
At noon I will wither thy sight with my frown ;
In gloom of the night, I will lay me beside thee,
And pierce with this weapon thy bosom of stone.

Fast fled the despoiler with howlings most dire,
Fast followed the spirit with rapier of fire ;—
Away, and away, through the silent saloon,
And away, and away, by the light of the moon.

XXV.

“ To follow I tried, but sunk down at the door.
Alas! from that trance that I ever awoke.
How wanders my mind ! I shall see him no more,
Till God shall yon gates everlasting unlock.
My poor brow is open, 'tis burning with pain,
O kiss it, sweet vision ! O kiss it again !
Now give me thine hand ; I will fly ! I will fly !
Away, on the morn's dappled wing, to the sky.”

XXVI.

The Conclusion.

O ! shepherd of Braco, look well to thy flock,
The piles of Glen-Ardochy murmur and jar ;
The rook and the raven converse from the rock,
The beasts of the forest are howling afar.

Shrill pipes the goss-hawk his dire tidings to tell,
The gray mountain-falcon accords with his yell ;
Aloft on bold pinion the eagle is borne,
To ring the alarm at the gates of the morn.

XXVII.

Ah ! shepherd, thy kids wander safe in the wood,
Thy lambs feed in peace on Ben-Ardochy's brow ;
Then why is the hoary cliff sheeted with blood ?
And what the poor carcase lies mangled below ?
Oh hie thee away to thy hut at the fountain,
And dig a lone grave on the top of yon mountain ;
But fly it for ever when falls the gray gloaming,
For there a grim phantom still naked is roaming.

Gardyn with stately step withdrew,
While plaudits round the circle flew.

Woe that the bard, whose thrilling song
Has poured from age to age along,
Should perish from the lists of fame,
And lose his only boon, a name.

Yet many a song of wonderous power,
Well known in cot and green-wood bower,
Wherever swells the shepherd's reed
On Yarrow's banks and braes of Tweed ;
Yes, many a song of olden time,
Of rude array, and air sublime,
Though long on time's dark whirlpool tossed,
The song is saved, the bard is lost.

Yet have I weened, when these I sung
On Ettrick banks, while mind was young ;
When on the eve their strains I threw,
And youths and maidens round me drew ;
Or chaunted in the lonely glen,
Far from the haunts and eyes of men ;
Yes, I have weened, with fondest sigh,
The spirit of the bard was nigh ;
Swung by the breeze on braken pile,
Or hovering o'er me with a smile.
Would fancy still her dreams combine,
That spirit, too, might breathe on mine ;

Well pleased to see her songs the joy
Of that poor lonely shepherd boy.

'Tis said, and I believe the tale,
That many rhymes which still prevail,
Of genuine ardour, bold and free,
Were aye admired, and aye will be,
Had never been, or shortly stood,
But for that Wake at Holyrood.
Certes that many a bard of name,
Who there appeared and strove for fame,
No record names, nor minstrel's tongue ;
Not even are known the lays they sung.

The fifth was from a western shore,
Where rolls the dark and sullen Orr.
Of peasant make, and doubtful mien,
Affecting airs of proud disdain ;
Wide curled his raven locks and high,
Dark was his visage, dark his eye,

That glanced around on dames and men
Like falcons on the cliffs of Ken.
No one could read the character,
If *knave* or *genius* writ was there;
But all supposed, from mien and frame,
From Erin he an exile came.

With hollow voice, and harp well strung,
"Fair Margaret" was the song he sung,
Well known to maid and matron gray,
Through all the glens of Galloway.
When first the bard his song began,
Of dreams and bodings hard to scan,
Listened the Court, with sidelong bend,
In wonder how the strain would end.
But long ere that, it grew so plain,
They scarce from hooting could refrain;
And when the minstrel ceased to sing,
A smothered hiss ran round the ring.
Red looked our bard around the form,
With eye of fire, and face of storm;

Sprung to his seat, with awkward leap,
And muttered curses dark and deep.

The sixth, too, from that country he,
Where heath-cocks bay o'er western Dee ;
Where Summer spreads her purple screen
O'er moors, where greensward ne'er was seen ;
Nor shade, o'er all the prospect stern,
Save crusted rock, or warrior's cairn.

Gentle his form, his manners meet,
His harp was soft, his voice was sweet ;
He sung Lochryan's hapless maid,
In bloom of youth by love betrayed :
Turned from her lover's bower at last,
To brave the chilly midnight blast ;
And bitterer far, the pangs to prove,
Of ruined fame, and slighted love ;
A tender babe, her arms within,
Sobbing and " shivering at the chin."

No lady's cheek in court was dry,
So softly poured the melody.

The eighth was from the Leven coast :
The rest who sung that night are lost.

Mounted the bard of Fife on high,
Bushy his beard, and wild his eye :
His haggard cheek was pale as clay,
And his thin locks were long and gray.
Some wizard of the wild he seemed,
Who through the scenes of life had dreamed,
Of spells that vital life benumb,
Of formless spirits wandering dumb,
Where aspens in the moon-beam quake,
By mouldering pile, or mountain lake.

He deemed that fays and spectres wan
Held converse with the thoughts of man ;
In dreams their future fates foretold,
And spread the death-flame on the wold ;

Or flagged at eve each restless wing,
In dells their vesper hymns to sing.

Such was our bard, such were his lays:
And long by green Benarty's base,
His wild wood notes, from ivy cave,
Had waked the dawning from the wave,
At evening fall, in lonesome dale,
He kept strange converse with the gale;
Held worldly pomp in high derision,
And wandered in a world of vision.

Of mountain ash his harp was framed,
The brazen chords all trembling flamed,
As in a rugged northern tongue,
This mad unearthly song he sung.

The Witch of Fife.**THE EIGHTH BARD'S SONG.**

“ Quhare haif ye been, ye ill womyne,

These three lang nightis fra hame ?

Quhat garris the sweit drap fra yer brow,

Like clotis of the saut sea faem ?

“ It fearis me muckil ye haif seen

Quhat good man never knew ;

It fearis me muckil ye haif been

Quhare the gray cock never crew.

“ But the spell may crack, and the brydel breck,

Then sherpe yer werde will be ;

Ye had better sleipe in yer bed at hame,

Wi’ yer deir littil bairnis and me.”—

‘ Sit dune, sit dune, my leil auld man,
Sit dune, and listin to me ;
I’ll gar the hayre stand on yer crown,
And the cauld sweit blind yer e’e.

‘ But tell nae wordis, my gude auld man,
Tell never word again ;
Or deire shall be yer courtisye,
And driche and sair yer pain.

‘ The first leet night, quhan the new moon set,
Quhan all was douffe and mirk,
We saddled our naigis wi’ the moon-fern leif,
And rode fra Kilmerrin kirk.

‘ Some horses ware of the brume-cow framit,
And some of the greine bay tree ;
But mine was made of ane humloke schaw,
And a stout stallion was he.

‘ We raide the tod doune on the hill,
The martin on the law ;
And we huntyd the hoolet out of brethe,
And forcit him doune to fa.’—

“ Quhat guid was that, ye ill womyne ?
Quhat guid was that to thee ?
Ye wald better haif been in yer bed at hame,
Wi’ yer deire littil bairnis and me.”—

‘ And aye we raide, and se merrily we raide,
Throw the merkist gloffis of the night ;
And we swam the floode, and we darnit the woode,
Till we cam to the Lommond height.

‘ And quhen we cam to the Lommond height,
Se lythlye we lyctid doune ;
And we drank fra the hornis that never grew,
The beer that was never browin.

‘ Then up there rase ane wee wee man,
 Franethe the moss-gray stane ;
His fece was wan like the collifloure,
 For he nouthir had blude nor bane.

‘ He set ane reid-pipe till his muthe,
 And he playit se bonnilye,
Till the gray curlew, and the black-cock, flew
 To listen his melodye.

‘ It rang se sweet through the green Lommond,
 That the nycht-winde lowner blew ;
And it soupit alang the Loch Leven,
 And wakinit the white sea-mew.

‘ It rang se sweet through the grein Lommond,
 Se sweetly butt and se shill,
That the wezilis laup out of their mouldy holis,
 And dancit on the mydnycht hill.

‘ The corby craw cam gledgin near,
The ern gede veeryng bye ;
And the troutis laup out of the Leven Loch,
Charmit with the melodye.

‘ And aye we dancit on the green Lommond,
Till the dawn on the ocean grew :
Ne wonder I was a weary wycht
Quhan I cam hame to you.’—

“ Quhat guid, quhat guid, my weird weird wyfe,
Quhat guid was that to thee ?
Ye wald better haif bein in yer bed at hame,
Wi’ yer deire littil bairnis and me.”—

‘ The second nycht, quhan the new moon set,
O’er the roaryng sea we flew ;
The cockle-shell our trusty bark,
Our sailis of the grein sea-rue.

‘ And the bauld windis blew, and the fire-flauchtis
flew,

And the sea ran to the skie;

And the thunner it growlit, and the sea-dogs howlit,
As we gaed scouryng bye.

‘ And aye we mountit the sea-green hillis,
Quhill we brushit thro’ the cludis of the hevin;
Than sousit dounright like the stern-shot light,
Fra the liftis blue casement driven.

‘ But our taickil stood, and our bark was good,
And se pang was our pearily prow;
Quhan we culdna speil the brow of the wavis,
We needilit them throu belowe.

‘ As fast as the hail, as fast as the gale,
As fast as the midnycht leme,
We borit the breiste of the burstyng swale,
Or fluffit i’ the flotyng faem.

‘ And quhan to the Norraway shore we wan,
We muntyd our steedis of the wynd,
And we splashit the floode, and we darnit the
woode,
And we left the shouir behynde.

‘ Fleet is the roe on the green Lommond,
And swift is the couryng grew ;
The rein-deir dun can eithly run,
Quhan the houndis and the hornis pursue.

‘ But nowther the roe, nor the rein-deir dun,
The hinde nor the couryng grew,
Culd fly owr muntaine, muir, and dale,
As owr braw steedis they flew.

‘ The dales war deep, and the Doffrinis steep,
And we rase to the skyis ee-bree ;
Quhite, quhite was our rode, that was never trode,
Owr the snawis of eternity !

‘ And quhan we cam to the Lapland lone,
The fairies war all in array,
For all the genii of the north
War keepyng their holeday.

‘ The warlock men and the weerd wemyng,
And the fays of the wood and the steep,
And the phantom hunteris all war there,
And the mermaidis of the deep.

‘ And they washit us all with the witch-water,
Distillit fra the moorland dew,
Quhill our beauty blumit like the Lapland rose,
That wylde in the foreste grew.’—

“ Ye lee, ye lee, ye ill womyne,
Se loud as I heir ye lee !
For the warst-faurd wyfe on the shoris of Fyfe
Is cumlye comparet wi’ thee.”—

‘ Then the mer-maidis sang and the woodlandis
rang,

Se sweetly swellit the quire ;

On every cliff a herpe they hang,

On every tree a lyre.

‘ And aye they sang, and the woodlandis rang,

And we drank, and we drank se deep ;

Then soft in the armis of the warlock men,

We laid us dune to sleep.’—

“ Away, away, ye ill womyne,

An ill deide met ye dee !

Quhan ye hae pruvit se false to yer God,

Ye can never pruve trew to me.”—

‘ And there we lernit fra the fairy foke

And fra our master true,

The wordis that can beire us throu the air,

And lokkis and baris undo.

‘ Last nycht we met at Maisry’s cot ;

Richt weil the wordis we knew ;

And we set a foot on the black cruik-shell,

And out at the lum we flew.

‘ And we flew ovr hill, and we flew ovr dale,

And we flew ovr firth and sea,

Until we cam to merry Carlisle,

Quhar we lightit on the lea.

‘ We gaed to the vault beyound the towir,

Quhar we enterit free as ayr ;

And we drank, and we drank of the bishopis wine

Quhill we culde drynk ne mair.’

“ Gin that be trew, my gude auld wyfe,

Whilk thou hast tauld to me,

Betide my death, betide my lyfe,

I’ll beire thee companye.

“ Neist tyme ye gaung to merry Carlisle
To drynk of the blude-reid wine,
Beshrew my heart, I’ll fly with thee,
If the diel should fly behynde.”—

‘ Ah ! little do ye ken, my silly auld man,
The daingeris we maun dree ;
Last nichte we drank of the bishopis wyne,
Quhill near near taen war we.

‘ Afore we wan to the sandy ford,
The gor-cockis nichering flew ;
The lofty crest of Ettrick Pen
Was wavit about with blew,
And, flichtering throu the air, we fand
The chill chill mornying dew.

‘ As we flew ovr the hillis of Braid,
The sun rase fair and clear ;
There gurlie James, and his baronis braw,
War out to hunt the deere.

‘ Their bowis they drew, their arrowis flew,
And peircit the ayr with speede,
Quhill purpil fell the mornyng dew
With witch-blude rank and reide.

‘ Littil do ye ken, my silly auld man,
The dangeris we maun dree ;
Ne wonder I am a weary wycht
Quhan I come hame to thee.’—

“ But tell me the *word*, my gude auld wyfe,
Come tell it me speedilye ;
For I lang to drink of the gude reide wyne,
And to wyng the ayr with thee.

“ Yer hellish horse I wilna ryde,
Nor sail the seas in the wynd ;
But I can flee as well as thee,
And I’ll drynk quhile ye be blynd.”—

‘ O fy ! O fy ! my leil auld man,
That word I darena tell ;
It wald turn this warld all upside down,
And make it warse than hell.

‘ For all the lasses in the land
Wald munt the wynd and fly ;
And the men wald doff their doublets syde,
And after them wald ply.’—

But the auld gudeman was ane cunnyng auld man,
And ane cunnyng auld man was he ;
And he watchit, and he watchit for mony a nychte,
The witches’ flychte to see.

Ane nychte he darnit in Maisry’s cot ;
The fearless haggs came in ;
And he heard the word of awsome weird,
And he saw their deedis of synn.

Then ane by ane, they said that word,
As fast to the fire they drew ;
Then set a foot on the black cruik-shell,
And out at the lum they flew.

The auld gudeman cam fra his hole
With feire and muckil dreide,
But yet he culdna think to rue,
For the wyne came in his head.

He set his foot in the black cruik-shell,
With ane fixit and ane wawlyng ee ;
And he said the word that I darena say,
And out at the lum flew he.

The witches skalit the moon-beam pale ;
Deep groanit the trembling wynde ;
But they never wist till our auld gudeman
Was hoveryng them behynde.

They flew to the vaultis of merry Carlisle,
 Quhair they enterit free as ayr;
And they drank and they drank of the bishopis
 wyne
 Quhill they culde drynk ne mair.

The auld gudeman he grew se crouse,
 He dancit on the mouldy ground,
And he sang the bonniest sangs of Fife,
 And he tuzzlit the kerlyngs round.

And aye he percit the tither butt,
 And he suckit, and he suckit se lang,
Quhill his een they closit, and his voice grew low,
 And his tongue wald hardly gang.

The kerlyngs drank of the bishopis wyne
 Quhill they scentit the mornying wynde;
Then clove again the yeilding ayr,
 And left the auld man behynde.

And aye he slepit on the damp damp floor,

He slepit and he snorit amain ;

He never dreamit he was far fra hame,

Or that the auld wyvis war gane.

And aye he slepit on the damp damp floor,

Quhill past the mid-day highte,

Quhan wakenit by five rough Englishmen,

That trailit him to the lychte.

“ Now quha are ye, ye silly auld man,

That sleepis se sound and se weil ?

Or how gat ye into the bishopis vault

Throu lokkis and barris of steel ?”

The auld gudeman he tryit to speak,

But ane word he culdna fynde ;

He tryit to think, but his head whirlit round,

And ane thing he culdna mynde :—

“ I cam fra Fyfe,” the auld man cryit,

“ And I cam on the midnycht wynde.”

They nickit the auld man, and they prickit the
auld man,

And they yerkit his limbis with twine,
Quhill the reid blude ran in his hose and shoon,
But some cryit it was wyne.

They lickit the auld man, and they prickit the
auld man,

And they tyit him till ane stone ;
And they set ane bele-fire him about,
To burn him skin and bone.

“ O wae to me ! ” said the puir auld man,

“ That ever I saw the day !

And wae be to all the ill wemyng

That lead puir men astray !

“ Let nevir ane auld man after this

To lawless greide inclyne ;

Let nevir ane auld man after this

Rin post to the deil for wyne.”

The reike flew up in the auld manis face,
And choukit him bitterlye ;
And the lowe cam up with ane angry blese,
And it syngit his auld breck-nee.

He lukit to the land fra whence he came,
For lukis he culde get ne mae ;
And he thochte of his deire littil bairnis at hame,
And O the auld man was wae !

But they turnit their facis to the sun,
With gloffe and wonderous glair,
For they saw ane thing beth lairge and dun,
Comin swaipin down the aire.

That burd it cam fra the landis o' Fife,
And it cam rycht tymeouslye,
For quha was it but the auld manis wife,
Just comit his dethe to see.

Scho pat ane reide cap on his heide,

And the auld gudeman lookit fain,

Then whisperit ane word intil his lug,

And tovit to the aire again.

The auld gudeman he gae ane bob

I' the mids o' the burnyng lowe ;

And the sheklis that band him to the ring,

They fell fra his armis like towe.

He drew his breath, and he said the word,

And he said it with muckle glee,

Then set his fit on the burnyng pile,

And away to the aire flew he.

Till aince he cleirit the swirlyng reike,

He lukit beth ferit and sad ;

But whan he wan to the lycht blue aire,

He lauchit as he'd been mad.

His armis war spred, and his heide was hiche,
And his feite stack out behynde;
And the laibies of the auld manis cote
War wauffyng in the wynde.

And aye he neicherit, and aye he flew,
For he thochte the ploy se raire;
It was like the voice of the gainer blue,
Whan he flees throu the aire.

He lukit back to the Carlisle men
As he borit the norlan sky;
He noddit his heide, and gae ane girn,
But he nevir said gude-bye.

They vanisht far i' the liftis blue wale,
Ne maire the English saw,
But the auld manis lauche cam on the gale,
With a lang and a loud gaffa.

May everilke man in the land of Fife

Read what the drinkeris dree;

And nevir curse his puir auld wife,

Rychte wicked altho scho be.

When ceased the minstrel's crazy song,

His heedful glance embraced the throng,

And found the smile of free delight

Dimpling the cheeks of ladies bright.

Ah ! never yet was bard unmoved,

When beauty smiled or birth approved !

For though his song he holds at nought—

“ An idle strain ! a passing thought ! ”—

Child of the soul ! 'tis held more dear

Then aught by mortals valued here.

When Leven's bard the Court had viewed,

His eye, his vigour, was renewed.

No, not the evening's closing eye,

Veiled in the rainbow's deepest dye,

By summer breezes lulled to rest,
Cradled on Leven's silver breast,
Or slumbering on the distant sea,
Imparted sweeter ecstasy.

Nor even the angel of the night,
Kindling his holy sphere of light,
Afar upon the heaving deep,
To light a world of peaceful sleep,
Though in her beam night-spirits glanced,
And lovely fays in circles danced,
Or rank by rank rode lightly bye,
Was sweeter to our minstrel's eye.

Unheard the bird of morning crew ;
Unheard the breeze of Ocean blew ;
The night unweened had passed away,
And dawning ushered in the day.
The Queen's young maids, of cherub hue,
Aside the silken curtains drew,

And lo the Night, in still profound,
In fleece of heaven had clothed the ground;
And still her furs, so light and fair,
Floated along the morning air.
Low stooped the pine amid the wood,
And the tall cliffs of Salisbury stood
Like marble columns bent and riven,
Propping a pale and frowning heaven.

The Queen bent from her gilded chair,
And waved her hand with graceful air :—
“ Break up the court, my lords ; away,
And use the day as best you may,
In sleep, in love, or wassail cheer ;
The day is dark, the evening near,
Say, will you grace my halls the while,
And in the dance the day beguile ?
Break up the court, my lords ; away,
And use the day as best you may.
Give order that my minstrels true
Have royal fare and honours due ;

And warned by evening's bugle shrill,
We meet to judge their minstrel skill."—

Whether that royal wake gave birth
To days of sleep and nights of mirth,
Which kings and courtiers still approve,
Which sages blame, and ladies love,
Imports not ;—but our courtly throng,
(That chapel wake being kept so long,)
Slept out the lowering short-lived days,
And heard by night their native lays,
Till fell the eve of Christmas good,
The dedication of the rood.

Ah me ! at routs and revels gay,
Reproach of this unthrifty day,
Though none amongst the dames or men
Rank higher than a citizen,
In chair or chariot all are borne,
Closed from the piercing eye of morn ;
But then, though dawning blasts were keen,
Scotland's high dames you might have seen,

Ere from the banquet hall they rose,
Shift their laced shoes and silken hose;
Their broidered kirtles round them throw,
And wade their way through wreaths of snow,
Leaning on Lord or lover's arm,
Cheerful and reckless of all harm.
Vanished those hardy times outright;
So is our ancient Scottish might.

Sweet be her home, admired her charms,
Bliss to her couch in lover's arms,
I bid in every minstrel's name,
I bid to every lovely dame,
That ever gave one hour away
To cheer the bard or list his lay!

To all who love the raptures high
Of Scottish song and minstrelsy,

Till next the night, in sable shroud,
Shall wrap the halls of Holyrood,
That rival minstrels' songs I borrow,—
I bid a hearty kind good-morrow.

END OF NIGHT THE FIRST.

THE
QUEEN'S WAKE.

NIGHT THE SECOND.

THE
HISTORY OF THE
CITY OF NEW YORK
FROM 1624 TO 1898
BY
JOHN EDGAR SWANwick

ALBANY, N. Y.
J. B. LIPPINCOTT & CO. PUBLISHERS
1898

MADE IN U. S. A.

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THE

QUEEN'S WAKE.

NIGHT THE SECOND.

SCARCE fled the dawning's dubious gray,
So transient was that dismal day.
The lurid vapours, dense and stern,
Unpierced save by the crusted cairn,
In ten-fold shroud the heavens deform ;
While far within the moving storm,
Travelled the sun in lonely blue,
And noontide wore a twilight hue.

The sprites that through the welkin wing,
That light and shade alternate bring,
That wrap the eve in dusky veil,
And weave the morning's purple rail ;
From pendent clouds of deepest grain,
Shed that dull twilight o'er the main.
Each spire, each tower, and cliff sublime,
Were hooded in the wreathy rime ;
And all, ere fell the murk of even,
Were lost within the folds of heaven.
It seemed as if the welkin's breast
Had bowed upon the world to rest ;
As heaven and earth to close began,
And seal the destiny of man.

The supper bell at Court had rung ;
The mass was said, the vesper sung ;
In true devotion's sweetest mood,
Beauty had kneeled before the rood ;
But all was done in secret guise,
Close from the zealot's searching eyes.

Then burst the bugle's lordly peal
Along the earth's incumbent veil ;
Swam on the cloud and lingering shower,
To festive hall and lady's bower ;
And found its way, with rapid boom,
To rocks far curtained in the gloom,
And waked their viewless bugle's strain,
That sung the softened notes again.

Upsprung the maid from her love-dream ;
The matron from her silken seam ;
The abbot from his holy shrine ;
The chiefs and warriors from their wine :
For aye the bugle seemed to say,
“ The Wake's begun ! away, away ! ”

Fast poured they in, all fair and boon,
Till crowded was the grand saloon ;
And scarce was left a little ring,
In which the rival bards might sing.

First in the list that night to play,
Was Farquhar, from the hills of Spey :
A gay and comely youth was he,
And seemed of noble pedigree.
Well known to him Loch-Avin's shore,
And all the dens of dark Glen-More ;
Where oft, amid his roving clan,
His shaft had pierced the ptarmigan ;
And oft the dun-deer's velvet side
That winged shaft had ruthless dyed,
Had struck the heath-cock whirring high,
And brought the eagle from the sky.

Amid those scenes the youth was bred,
Where Nature's eye is stern and dread ;
Mid forests dark, and caverns wild,
And mountains above mountains piled,
Whose hoary summits, tempest-riven,
Uprear eternal snows to heaven.

Aloof from battle's fierce alarms,
Prone his young mind to music's charms.
The cliffs and woods of dark Glen-More
He taught to chaunt in mystic lore;
For well he weened, by tarn and hill,
Kind viewless spirits wandered still;
And fondly trowed the groups to spy,
Listening his cliff-born melody.
On Leven's bard with scorn he looked,
His homely song he scarcely brooked;
But proudly mounting on the form,
Thus sung *The Spirit of the Storm*.

Glen-Avin.

THE NINTH BARD'S SONG.

Beyond the grizzly cliffs, which guard
The infant rills of Highland Dee,
Where hunter's horn was never heard,
Nor bugle of the forest bee;

Mid wastes that dern and dreary lie,

One mountain rears his mighty form,

Disturbs the moon in passing bye,

And smiles above the thunder storm.

There Avin spreads her ample deep,

To mirror cliffs that brush the wain ;

Whose frigid eyes eternal weep,

In Summer suns and Autumn rain.

There matin hymn was never sung ;

Nor vesper, save the plover's wail ;

But mountain eagles breed their young,

And aërial spirits ride the gale.

An hoary sage once lingered there,

Intent to prove some mystic scene ;

Though cavern deep, and forest sere,

Had whooped November's boisterous reign.

That noontide fell so stern and still,
 'The breath of nature seemed away ;
The distant sigh of mountain rill
 Alone disturbed that solemn day.

Oft had that seer, at break of morn,
 Beheld the fahm glide o'er the fell ;
And 'neath the new moon's silver horn,
 The fairies dancing in the dell.

Had seen the spirits of the Glen,
 In every form that Ossian knew ;
And wailings heard for living men,
 Were never more the light to view.

But, ah ! that dull foreboding day,
 He saw what mortal could not bear ;
A sight that scared the erne away,
 And drove the wild deer from his lair.

Firm in his magic ring he stood,
When, lo ! aloft on gray Cairn-Gorm,
A form appeared that chilled his blood,—
The giant Spirit of the Storm.

His face was like the spectre wan,
Slow gliding from the midnight isle ;
His stature, on the mighty plan
Of smoke-tower o'er the burning pile.

Red, red and grizzly were his eyes ;
His cap the moon-cloud's silver gray ;
His staff the writhed snake, that lies
Pale, bending o'er the milky-way.

He cried, " Away, begone, begone !
Half-naked, hoary, feeble form !
How darest thou hold my realms alone,
And brave the Angel of the Storm ?"—

“And who art thou,” the seer replied,

“That bear’st destruction on thy brow?

Whose eye no mortal can abide?

Dread mountain Spirit! what art thou?”

“Within this desert, dank and long,

Since rolled the world a shoreless sea,

I’ve held my elemental throne,

The terror of thy race and thee.

“I wrap the sun of heaven in blood,

Veiling his orient beams of light;

And hide the moon in sable shroud,

Far in the alcove of the night.

“I ride the red bolt’s rapid wing,

High on the sweeping whirlwind sail,

And list to hear my tempests sing

Around Glen-Avin’s ample wale.

“ These everlasting hills are riven ;
Their reverend heads are bald and gray ;
The Greenland waves salute the heaven,
And quench the burning stars with spray.

“ Who was it reared those whelming waves ?
Who scalped the brows of old Cairn-Gorm ?
And scooped these ever-yawning caves ?
’Twas I, the Spirit of the Storm.

“ And hence shalt thou, for evermore,
Be doomed to ride the blast with me ;
To shriek, amid the tempest’s roar,
By fountain, ford, and forest tree.”

The wizard cowered him to the earth,
And orisons of dread began :

“ Hence, Spirit of infernal birth !
Thou enemy of God and man !”

He waved his sceptre north away,
The arctic ring was rift asunder ;
And through the heaven, the startling bray
Burst louder than the loudest thunder.

The feathery clouds, condensed and curled,
In columns swept the quaking glen ;
Destruction down the dale was hurled,
O'er bleating flocks and wondering men.

The Grampians groaned beneath the storm ;
New mountains o'er the correis lean'd ;
Ben-Nevis shook his shaggy form,
And wondered what his Sovereign mean'd.

Even far on Yarrow's fairy dale,
The shepherd paused in dumb dismay ;
And passing shrieks adown the vale
Lured many a pitying hind away.

The Lowthers felt the tyrant's wrath ;
Proud Hartfell quaked beneath his brand ;
And Cheviot heard the cries of death,
Guarding his loved Northumberland.

But, O ! as fell that fateful night,
What horrors Avin wiks deform,
And choke the ghastly lingering light !
There whirled the vortex of the storm.

Ere morn the wind grew deadly still,
And dawning in the air, updrew,
From many a shelve and shining hill,
Her folding robe of fairy blue.

Then, what a smooth and wonderous scene
Hung o'er Loch-Avin's lonely breast !
Not top of tallest pine was seen,
On which the dazzled eye could rest.

But mitred cliff, and crested fell,
In lucid curls her brows adorn,
Aloft the radiant crescents swell,
All pure as robes by angels worn.

Sound sleeps our seer, far from the day,
Beneath yon sleek and wreathed cone !
His spirit steals, unmissed, away,
And dreams across the desert lone.

Sound sleeps our seer ! the tempests rave,
And cold sheets o'er his bosom fling ;
The moldwarp digs his mossy grave ;
His requiem Avin eagles sing.

Why howls the fox above yon wreath,
That mocks the blazing Summer sun ?
Why croaks the sable bird of death,
As hovering o'er yon desert dun ?

When circling years have past away,
And Summer blooms in Avin glen,
Why stands yon peasant in dismay,
Still gazing o'er the bloated den ?

Green grows the grass ! the bones are white !
Not bones of mountain stag they seem !
There hooted once the owl by night,
Above the dead-light's lambent beam !

See yon lone cairn, so gray with age,
Above the base of proud Cairn-Gorm :
There lies the dust of Avin's sage,
Who raised the Spirit of the Storm.

Yet still at eve, or midnight drear,
When Wintry winds begin to sweep,
When passing shrieks assail thine ear,
Or murmurs by the mountain steep ;

When from the dark and sedgy dells
Came eldrich cries of wildered men,
Or wind-harp at thy window swells,—
Beware the sprite of Avin-Glen !

Young Farquhar ceased, and, rising slow,
Doffed his plumed bonnet, wiped his brow,
And, flushed with conscious dignity,
Cast o'er the crowd his falcon eye,
And found them all in silence deep,
As listening for the tempest's sweep.
So well his tale of Avin's seer
Suited the rigour of the year ;
So high his strain, so bold his lyre,
So fraught with rays of Celtic fire,
They almost weened each hum that past
The spirit of the northern blast.

The next was named,—the very sound
Excited merriment around.

But when the bard himself appeared,
The ladies smiled, the courtiers sneered ;
For such a simple air and mien
Before a court had never been.
A clown he was, bred in the wild,
And late from native moors exiled,
In hopes his mellow mountain strain
High favour from the great would gain.
Poor wight ! he never weened how hard
For poverty to earn regard !
Dejection o'er his visage ran,
His coat was bare, his colour wan,
His forest doublet darned and torn,
His shepherd plaid all rent and worn ;
Yet dear the symbols to his eye,
Memorials of a time gone bye.

The bard on Ettrick's mountain green
In Nature's bosom nursed had been,
And oft had marked in forest lone
Her beauties on her mountain throne ;

Had seen her deck the wild-wood tree,
And star with snowy gems the lea ;
In loveliest colours paint the plain,
And sow the moor with purple grain ;
By golden mead and mountain sheer,
Had viewed the Ettrick waving clear,
Where shadowy flocks of purest snow
Seemed grazing in a world below.

Instead of Ocean's billowy pride,
Where monsters play and navies ride,
Oft had he viewed, as morning rose,
The bosom of the lonely Lowes,
Plowed far by many a downy keel,
Of wild-duck and of vagrant teal.
Oft thrilled his heart at close of even,
To see the dappled vales of heaven,
With many a mountain, moor, and tree,
Asleep upon the Saint Mary ;
The pilot swan majestic wind,
With all his cygnet fleet behind,

So softly sail, and swiftly row,
With sable oar and silken prow.
Instead of war's unhallowed form,
His eye had seen the thunder-storm
Descend within the mountain's brim,
And shroud him in its chambers grim;
Then from its bowels burst amain
The sheeted flame and sounding rain,
And by the bolts in thunder borne,
The heaven's own breast and mountain torn;
The wild roe from the forest driven;
The oaks of ages peeled and riven;
Impending oceans whirl and boil,
Convulsed by Nature's grand turmoil.

Instead of arms or golden crest,
His harp with mimic flowers was drest:
Around, in graceful streamers, fell
The briar-rose and the heather bell;
And there, his learning deep to prove,
Naturæ Donum graved above.

When o'er her mellow notes he ran,
And his wild mountain chaunt began,
Then first was noted in his eye,
A gleam of native energy.

Old David.

THE TENTH BARD'S SONG.

Old David rose ere it was day,
And climbed old Wonfell's wizard brae;
Looked round, with visage grim and sour,
O'er Ettrick woods and Eskdale-moor.
An outlaw from the south he came,
And Ludlow was his father's name;
His native land had used him ill,
And Scotland bore him no good-will.

As fixed he stood, in sullen scorn,
Regardless of the streaks of morn,
Old David spied, on Wonfell cone,
A fairy band come riding on.

A lovelier troop was never seen ;
Their steeds were white, their doublets green,
Their faces shone like opening morn,
And bloomed like roses on the thorn.
At every flowing mane was hung
A silver bell that lightly rung ;
That sound, borne on the breeze away,
Oft set the mountaineer to pray.

Old David crept close in the heath,
Scarce moved a limb, scarce drew a breath ;
But as the tinkling sound came nigh,
Old David's heart beat wonderous high.
He thought of riding on the wind ;
Of leaving hawk and hern behind ;
Of sailing lightly o'er the sea,
In mussel shell, to Germany ;
Of revel raids by dale and down ;
Of lighting torches at the moon ;
Or through the sounding spheres to sing,
Borne on the fiery meteor's wing ;

Of dancing 'neath the moonlight sky;
Of sleeping in the dew-cup's eye.
And then he thought—O ! dread to tell !—
Of tithes the fairies paid to hell !

David turned up a reverend eye,
And fixed it on the morning sky ;
He knew a mighty one lived there,
That sometimes heard a warrior's prayer—
No word, save one, could David say ;
Old David had not learned to pray.

Scarce will a Scotsman yet regard
What David saw, and what he heard.
He heard their horses snort and tread,
And every word the riders said ;
While green portmanteaus, long and low,
Lay bended o'er each saddle bow.
A lovely maiden rode between,
Whom David judged the Fairy Queen ;

But strange ! he heard her moans resound,
And saw her feet with fetters bound.

Fast spur they on through bush and brake ;
To Ettrick woods their course they take.
Old David followed still in view,
Till near the Lochilaw they drew ;
There in a deep and wonderous dell,
Where wandering sun-beam never fell,
Where noon-tide breezes never blew
From flowers to drink the morning dew ;
There, underneath the sylvan shade,
The fairies' spacious bower was made.
Its rampart was the tangling sloe,
The bending briar, and misletoe ;
And o'er its roof, the crooked oak
Waved wildly from the frowning rock.

This wonderous bower, this haunted dell,
The forest shepherd shunned as hell !

When sound of fairies' silver horn
Came on the evening breezes borne,
Homeward he fled, nor made a stand,
Thinking the spirits hard at hand.
But when he heard the eldrich swell
Of giggling laugh and bridle bell,
Or saw the riders troop along,
His orisons were loud and strong.
His household fare he yielded free
To this mysterious company,
The fairest maid his cot within
Resigned with awe and little din ;
True he might weep, but nothing say,
For none durst say the fairies nay.

Old David hasted home that night,
A wondering and a wearied wight.
Seven sons he had, alert and keen,
Had all in Border battles been ;
Had wielded brand, and bent the bow,
For those who sought their overthrow.

Their hearts were true, their arms were strong,
Their faulchions keen, their arrows long;
The race of fairies they denied,—
No fairies kept the English side.

Our yeomen on their armour threw,
Their brands of steel and bows of yew,
Long arrows at their backs they sling,
Fledged from the Snowdon eagle's wing,
And boun' away brisk as the wind,
The sire before, the sons behind.

That evening fell so sweetly still,
So mild on lonely moor and hill,
The little genii of the fell
Forsook the purple heather-bell,
And all their dripping beds of dew,
In wind-flower, thyme, and violet blue;
Aloft their viewless looms they heave,
And dew-webs round the helmets weave.

The waning moon her lustre threw
Pale round her throne of softened blue ;
Her circuit, round the southland sky,
Was languid, low, and quickly bye ;
Leaning on cloud so faint and fair,
And cradled on the golden air ;
Modest and pale as maiden bride,
She sunk upon the trembling tide.

What late in daylight proved a jest,
Was now the doubt of every breast.
That *fairies were*, was not disputed ;
But *what* they were was greatly doubted.
Each argument was guarded well,
With “ if,” and “ should,” and “ who can tell.”

“ Sure He that made majestic man,
And framed the world's stupendous plan ;
Who placed on high the steady pole,
And sowed the stars that round it roll ;

And made that sky, so large and blue,—
Could surely make a fairy too.”

The sooth to say, each valiant core
Knew feelings never felt before.
Oft had they darned the midnight brake,
Fearless of aught save bog and lake ;
But now the nod of sapling fir,
The heath-cock's loud exulting whirr,
The cry of hern from sedgy pool,
Or airy bleeter's rolling howl,
Came fraught with more dismaying dread
Than warder's horn, or warrior's tread.

Just as the gloom of midnight fell,
They reached the fairies' lonely dell.
O heavens ! that dell was dark as death !
Perhaps the pit-fall yawned beneath !
Perhaps that lane that winded low,
Led to a nether world of woe !

But stern necessity's controul
Resistless sways the human soul.

The bows are bent, the tinders smoke
With fire by sword struck from the rock.
Old David held the torch before ;
His right hand heaved a dread claymore,
Whose Rippon edge he meant to try
On the first fairy met his eye.
Above his head his brand was raised ;
Above his head the taper blazed ;
A sterner or a ghastlier sight,
Ne'er entered bower at dead of night.
Below each lifted arm was seen
The barbed point of arrow keen,
Which waited but the twang of bow
To fly like lightning on the foe.
Slow move they on, with steady eye,
Resolved to conquer or to die.

At length they spied a massive door,
Deep in a nook, unseen before ;

And by it slept, on wicker chair,
A sprite of dreadful form and air.
His grizzly beard flowed round his throat,
Like shaggy hair of mountain goat ;
His open jaws and visage grim,
His half-shut eye so deadly dim,
Made David's blood to's bosom rush,
And his gray hair his helmet brush.
He squared, and made his faulchion wheel
Around his back from head to heel ;
Then, rising tiptoe, struck amain,
Down fell the sleeper's head in twain ;
And springing blood, in veil of smoke,
Whizzed high against the bending oak.

“ By heaven !” said George, with jocund air,
“ Father, if all the fairies there
Are of the same materials made,
Let them beware the Rippon blade !”
A ghastly smile was seen to play
O'er David's visage, stern and gray ;

He hoped, and feared ; but ne'er till then
Knew whether he fought with sprites or men.

The massy door they next unlock,
That oped to hall beneath the rock,
In which new wonders met the eye :
The room was ample, rude, and high,
The arches caverned, dark, and torn,
On Nature's rifted columns borne ;
Of moulding rude the embrazure,
And all the wild entablature ;
And far o'er roof and architrave,
The ivy's ringlets bend and wave.
In each abrupt recess was seen
A couch of heath and rushes green ;
While every alcove's sombre hue,
Was gemm'd with drops of midnight dew.

Why stand our heroes still as death,
Nor muscle move, nor heave a breath ?

See how the sire his torch has lowered,
And bends recumbent o'er his sword !
The arcubalister has thrown
His threatening, thirsty arrows down !
Struck in one moment, all the band
Entranced like moveless statues stand !
Enchantment sure arrests the spear,
And stints the warrior's bold career !

List, list, what mellow angel-sound
Distils from yonder gloom profound !
'Tis not the note of gathering shell,
Of fairy horn, nor silver bell !
No, 'tis the lute's mellifluous swell,
Mixed with a maiden's voice so clear,
The flitting bats flock round to hear !

So wildly o'er the vault it rung,
That song, if in the green-wood sung,
Would draw the fays of wood and plain
To kiss the lips that poured the strain.

The lofty pine would listening lean ;
The wild birch wave her tresses green ;
And larks, that rose the dawn to greet,
Drop lifeless at the singer's feet.
The air was old, the measure slow,
The words were plain, but words of woe.

Soft died the strain ; the warriors stand,
Nor rested lance, nor lifted brand,
But listening bend, in hopes again
To hear that sweetly plaintive strain.
'Tis gone ! and each uplifts his eye,
As waked from dream of ecstasy.

Why stoops young Owen's gilded crest ?
Why heave those groans from Owen's breast ?
While kinsmen's eyes in raptures speak,
Why steals the tear o'er Owen's cheek ?
That melting song, that song of pain,
Was sung to Owen's favourite strain ;

The words were new, but that sweet lay
Had Owen heard in happier day.

Fast press they on ; in close-set row,
Winded the lab'rinth far and low,
Till, in the cave's extremest bound,
Arrayed in sea-green silk, they found
Five beauteous dames, all fair and young ;
And she, who late so sweetly sung,
Sat leaning o'er a silver lute,
Pale with despair, with terror mute.

When back her auburn locks she threw,
And raised her eyes so lovely blue,
'Twas like the woodland rose in dew !
That look was soft as morning flower,
And mild as sun-beam through the shower.
Old David gazed, and weened the while,
He saw a suffering angel smile ;
Weened he had heard a seraph sing,
And sounds of a celestial string.

But when young Owen met her view,
She shrieked, and to his bosom flew :
For, oft before, in Moodlaw bowers,
They two had passed the evening hours.
She was the loveliest mountain maid,
That e'er by grove or riv'let strayed ;
Old Raeburn's child, the fairest flower
That ever bloomed in Eskdale-moor.
'Twas she the Sire that morn had seen,
And judged to be the Fairy Queen ;
'Twas she who framed the artless lay,
That stopt the warriors on their way.

Close to her lover's breast she clung,
And round his neck enraptured hung :—
“ O my dear Owen ! haste and tell,
What caused you dare this lonely dell,
And seek your maid, at midnight still,
Deep in the bowels of the hill ?
Here in this dark and drear abode,
By all deserted but my God,

Must I have reft the life he gave,
Or lived in shame a villain's slave.
I was, at midnight's murkest hour,
Stole from my father's stately tower,
And never thought again to view
The sun or sky's ethereal blue ;
But since the first of Border-men
Has found me in this dismal den,
I to his arms for shelter fly,
With him to live, or with him die."

How glowed brave Owen's manly face,
While in that lady's kind embrace !
Warm tears of joy his utterance staid ;
" O, my loved Ann !" was all he said.
Though well they loved, her high estate
Caused Owen aye aloof to wait ;
And watch her bower, beside the rill,
When twilight rocked the breezes still,
And waked the music of the grove
To hymn the vesper song of love.

Then underneath the green-wood bough,
Oft had they breathed the tender vow.

With Ann of Raeburn here they found
The flowers of all the Border round ;
From whom the strangest tale they hear,
That e'er astounded warrior's ear.
'Twould make even Superstition blush,
And all her tales of spirits hush.

That night the spoilers ranged the vale,
By Dryhope towers, and Meggat-dale.
Ah ! little trowed the fraudulent train,
They ne'er should see their wealth again !
Their lemans, and their mighty store,
For which they nightly toils had bore,
Full twenty Autumn moons and more !
They little deemed, when morning dawned,
To meet the deadly Rippon brand ;
And only find, at their return,
In their loved cave an early urn.

Ill suits it simple bard to tell
Of bloody work that there befel.
He lists not deeds of death to sing,
Of splintered spear, and twanging string,
Of piercing arrow's purpled wing,
How faulchions flash, and helmets ring.
Not one of all that prowling band,
So long the terror of the land,
Not one escaped their deeds to tell ;
All in the winding lab'rinth fell.
The spoil was from the cave conveyed,
Where in a heap the dead were laid :
The outer cave our yeomen fill,
And left them in the hollow hill.

But still that dell, and bourn beneath,
The forest shepherd dreads as death.
Not there at evening dares he stray,
Though love impatient points the way ;
Though throbs his heart the maid to see,
That's waiting by the trysting tree.

Even the old Sire, so reverend gray,
Ere turns the scale of night and day,
Oft breathes the short and ardent prayer,
That heaven may guard his footsteps there;
His eyes, meantime, so dim with dread,
Scarce ken the turf his foot must tread.
For still 'tis told, and still believed,
That there the spirits were deceived,
And maidens from their grasp retrieved :
That this they still preserve in mind,
And watch, when sighs the midnight wind,
To wreck their rage on humankind.

Old David, for this doughty raid,
Was keeper of the forest made ;
A trooper he of gallant fame,
And first of all the Laidlaw name.

E'er since, in Ettrick's glens so green,
Spirits, though there, are seldom seen ;

And fears of elf, and fairy raid,
Have like a morning dream decayed.
The bare-foot maid, of rosy hue,
Dares from the heath-flower brush the dew,
To meet her love in moon-light still,
By flowery den or tinkling rill ;
And well dares she till midnight stay,
Among the coils of fragrant hay.

True, some weak shepherds, gone astray,
As fell the dusk of Hallow-day,
Have heard the tinkling sound aloof,
And gentle tread of horse's hoof;
And flying swifter than the wind,
Left all their scattered flocks behind.

True, when the evening tales are told,
When winter nights are dark and cold,
The boy dares not to barn repair
Alone, to say his evening prayer ;

Nor dare the maiden ope the door,
Unless her lover walk before ;
Then well can counterfeit the fright,
If star-beam on the water light ;
And to his breast in terror cling,
For such a dread and dangerous thing.

O, Ettrick ! shelter of my youth !
Thou sweetest glen of all the south !
Thy fairy tales, and songs of yore,
Shall never fire my bosom more.
Thy winding glades, and mountains wild,
The scenes that pleased me when a child,
Each verdant vale, and flowery lea,
Still in my midnight dreams I see ;
And waking oft, I sigh for thee ;
Thy hapless bard, though forced to roam
Afar from thee without a home,
Still there his glowing breast shall turn,
Till thy green bosom fold his urn.

Then, underneath thy mountain stone,
Shall sleep unnoticed and unknown.

When ceased the shepherd's simple lay,
With careless mien he lounged away.
No bow he deigned, nor anxious looked
How the gay throng their minstrel brooked.
No doubt within his bosom grew,
That to his skill the prize was due.
Well might he hope, for while he sung,
Louder and louder plaudits rung;
And when he ceased his numbers wild,
Fair Royalty approved and smiled.
Long had the bard, with hopes elate,
Sung to the low, the gay, the great;
And once had dared, at flatterer's call,
To tune his harp in Branhholm hall;
But nor his notes of soothing sound,
Nor zealous word of bard renowned,
Might those persuade, that worth could be
Inherent in such mean degree.

But when the smile of Sovereign fair
Attested genuine nature there,
Throbb'd high with rapture every breast,
And all his merit stood confest.

Different the next the herald named ;
Warrior he was, in battle maimed,
When Lennox, on the downs of Kyle,
O'erthrew Maconnel and Argyle.
Unable more the sword to wield
With dark Clan-Alpine in the field,
Or rouse the dun deer from her den
With fierce Macfarlane and his men ;
He strove to earn a minstrel name,
And fondly nursed the sacred flame.
Warm was his heart, and bold his strain ;
Wild fancies in his moody brain
Gambolled, unbridled, and unbound,
Lured by a shade, decoyed by sound.

In tender age, when mind was free,
As standing by his nurse's knee,
He heard a tale, so passing strange,
Of injured spirit's cool revenge,
It chilled his heart with blasting dread,
Which never more that bosom fled.
When passion's flush had fled his eye,
And gray hairs told that youth was bye,
Still quaked his heart at bush or stone,
As wandering in the gloom alone.

Where foxes roam, and eagles rave,
And dark woods round Ben-Lomond wave,
Once on a night, a night of dread !
He held convention with the dead ;
Brought warnings to the house of death,
And tidings from a world beneath.

Loud blew the blast—the evening came,
The way was long, the minstrel lame ;

The mountain's side was dorn with oak,
Darkened with pine, and ribbed with rock;
Blue billows round its base were driven,
Its top was steeped in waves of heaven.
The wood, the wind, the billow's moan,
All spoke in language of their own,
But too well to our minstrel known.
Wearied, bewildered, in amaze,
Hymning in heart the Virgin's praise,
A cross he framed, of birchen bough,
And 'neath that cross he laid him low;
Hid by the heath, and Highland plaid,
His old harp in his bosom laid.
O! when the winds that wandered by,
Sung on her breast their lullaby,
How thrilled the tones his bosom through,
And deeper, holier, poured his vow!

No sleep was his—he raised his eye,
To note if dangerous place was nigh.

There columned rocks, abrupt and rude,
Hung o'er his gateless solitude :
The muffled sloe, and tangling brier,
Precluded freak or entrance here ;
But yonder oped a little path,
O'ershadowed, deep, and dark as death.
Trembling, he groped around his lair
Formountain ash, but none was there.
Teeming with forms, his terror grew ;
Heedful he watched, for well he knew,
That in that dark and devious dell,
Some lingering ghost or sprite must dwell :
So as he trowed, so it befel.

The stars were wrapt in curtain gray,
The blast of midnight died away ;
'Twas just the hour of solemn dread,
When walk the spirits of the dead.
Rustled the leaves with gentle motion,
Groaned his chilled soul in deep devotion,

The lake-fowl's wake was heard no more ;
The wave forgot to brush the shore ;
Hushed was the bleat, on moor and hill ;
The wandering clouds of heaven stood still.

What heart could bear, what eye could meet,
The spirits in their lone retreat !
Rustled again the darksome dell ;
Straight on the minstrel's vision fell
A trembling and unwonted light,
That showed the phantoms to his sight.

Came first a slender female form,
Pale as the moon in Winter storm ;
A babe of sweet simplicity
Clung to her breast as pale as she,
And aye she sung its lullaby.
That cradle-song of the phantom's child,
O ! but it was soothing, holy, and wild !
But, O ! that song can ill be sung,
By Lowland bard, or Lowland tongue.

The Spectre's Cradle-Song.

Hush, my bonny babe ! hush, and be still !
Thy mother's arms shall shield thee from ill.
Far have I borne thee, in sorrow and pain,
To drink the breeze of the world again.
The dew shall moisten thy brow so meek,
And the breeze of midnight fan thy cheek,
And soon shall we rest in the bow of the hill ;
Hush, my bonny babe ! hush and be still !
For thee have I travailed, in weakness and woe,
The world above and the world below.
My heart was soft, and it fell in the snare ;
Thy father was cruel, but thou wert fair.
I sinned, I sorrowed, I died for thee ;
Smile, my bonny babe ! smile on me !

See yon thick clouds of murky hue ;
Yon star that peeps from its window blue ;
Above yon clouds, that wander far,
Away, above yon little star,

There's a home of peace that shall soon be thine,
And there shalt thou see thy Father and mine.
The flowers of the world shall bud and decay,
The trees of the forest be weeded away ;
But there shalt *thou* bloom for ever and aye.
The time will come, I shall follow thee ;
But long, long hence that time shall be ;
Smile now, my bonny babe ! smile on me !

Slow moved she on with dignity,
Nor bush, nor brake, or rock, nor tree,
Her footsteps staid—o'er cliff so bold,
Where not the wren its foot could hold,
Stately she wandered, firm and free,
Singing her softened lullaby.

Three naked phantoms next came on ;
They beckoned low, past, and were gone.
Then came a troop of sheeted dead,
With shade of chieftain at their head.

And with our bard, in brake forlorn,
Held converse till the break of morn.
Their ghostly rites, their looks, their mould,
Or words to man, he never told ;
But much he learned of mystery,
Of that was past, and that should be.
Thenceforth he troubles oft divined,
And scarcely held his perfect mind ;
Yet still the song, admired when young,
He loved, and that in Court he sung.

Macgregor.

THE ELEVENTH BARD'S SONG.

“ Macgregor, Macgregor, remember our foemen ;
The moon rises broad from the brow of Ben-Lomond ;
The clans are impatient, and chide thy delay ;
Arise ! let us bound to Glen-Lyon away.”—

Stern scowled the Macgregor, then silent and sullen,
He turned his red eye to the braes of Strathfillan ;

“ Go, Malcolm, to sleep, let the clans be dismissed ;
The Campbells this night for Macgregor must rest.”—

“ Macgregor, Macgregor, our scouts have been flying,
Three days, round the hills of M'Nab and Glen-Lyon ;
Of riding and running such tidings they bear,
We must meet them at home else they'll quickly be here.”—

“ The Campbell may come, as his promises bind him,
And haughty M'Nab, with his giants behind him ;
This night I am bound to relinquish the fray,
And do what it freezes my vitals to say.
Forgive me, dear brother, this horror of mind ;
Thou knowest in the strife I was never behind,
Nor ever receded a foot from the van,
Or blenched at the ire or the prowess of man.
But I've sworn by the cross, by my God, and by all !
An oath which I cannot, and dare not recal,—
Ere the shadows of midnight fall east from the pile,
To meet with a spirit this night in Glen-Gyle.

Last night, in my chamber, all thoughtful and lone,
I called to remembrance some deeds I had done,
When entered a lady, with visage so wan,
And looks, such as never were fastened on man.
I knew her, O brother ! I knew her too well !
Of that once fair dame such a tale I could tell,
As would thrill thy bold heart ; but how long she remained,
So racked was my spirit, my bosom so pained,
I knew not—but ages seemed short to the while.
Though proffer the Highlands, nay, all the green isle,
With length of existence no man can enjoy,
The same to endure, the dread proffer I'd fly !
The thrice-threatened pangs of last night to forego,
Macgregor would dive to the mansions below.
Despairing and mad, to futurity blind,
The present to shun, and some respite to find,
I swore, ere the shadow fell east from the pile,
To meet her alone by the brook of Glen-Gyle.

She told me, and turned my chilled heart to a stone,
The glory and name of Macgregor was gone :

That the pine, which for ages had shed a bright halo,
Afar on the mountains of Highland Glen-Falo,
Should wither and fall ere the turn of yon moon,
Smit through by the canker of hated Colquhoun :
That a feast on Macgregors each day should be common,
For years, to the eagles of Lennox and Lomond.

A parting embrace, in one moment, she gave :
Her breath was a furnace, her bosom the grave !
Then flitting elusive, she said, with a frown,
“ The mighty Macgregor shall yet be my own ! ”—

“ Macgregor, thy fancies are wild as the wind ;
The dreams of the night have disordered thy mind.
Come, buckle thy panoply—march to the field,—
See, brother, how hacked are thy helmet and shield !
Ay, that was M'Nab, in the height of his pride,
When the lions of Dochart stood firm by his side.
This night the proud chief his presumption shall rue ;
Rise, brother, these chinks in his heart-blood will glue :

Thy fantasies frightful shall flit on the wing,
When loud with thy bugle Glen-Lyon shall ring.”—

Like glimpse of the moon through the storm of the night,
Macgregor's red eye shed one sparkle of light :
It faded—it darkened—he shuddered—he sighed,—
“ No ! not for the universe ! ” low he replied.

Away went Macgregor, but went not alone ;
To watch the dread rendezvous, Malcolm has gone.
They oared the broad Lomond, so still and serene,
And deep in her bosom, how awful the scene !
O'er mountains inverted the blue waters curled,
And rocked them on skies of a far nether world.

All silent they went, for the time was approaching ;
The moon the blue zenith already was touching ;
No foot was abroad on the forest or hill,
No sound but the lullaby sung by the rill :
Young Malcolm at distance, couched, trembling the while,—
Macgregor stood lone by the brook of Glen-Gyle.

Few minutes had passed, ere they spied on the stream,
A skiff sailing light, where a lady did seem ;
Her sail was the web of the gossamer's loom,
The glow-worm her wakelight, the rainbow her boom ;
A dim rayless beam was her prow and her mast,
Like wold-fire, at midnight, that glares on the waste.
Though rough was the river with rock and cascade,
No torrent, no rock, her velocity staid ;
She wimpled the water to weather and lee,
And heaved as if borne on the waves of the sea.
Mute Nature was roused in the bounds of the glen ;
The wild deer of Gairtney abandoned his den,
Fled panting away, over river and isle,
Nor once turned his eye to the brook of Glen-Gyle.

The fox fled in terror ; the eagle awoke,
As slumbering he dozed in the shelve of the rock ;
Astonished, to hide in the moon-beam he flew,
And screwed the night-heaven till lost in the blue.

Young Malcolm beheld the pale lady approach,
The chieftain salute her, and shrink from her touch.

He saw the Macgregor kneel down on the plain,
As begging for something he could not obtain;
She raised him indignant, derided his stay,
Then bore him on board, set her sail, and away.

Though fast the red bark down the river did glide,
Yet faster ran Malcolm adown by its side;
“Macgregor ! Macgregor !” he bitterly cried;
“Macgregor ! Macgregor !” the echoes replied.
He struck at the lady, but, strange though it seem,
His sword only fell on the rocks and the stream;
But the groans from the boat, that ascended amain,
Were groans from a bosom in horror and pain.—
They reached the dark lake, and bore lightly away ;
Macgregor is vanished for ever and aye !

Abrupt as glance of morning sun,
The bard of Lomond's lay is done.
Loves not the swain, from path of dew,
At morn the golden orb to view,
Rise broad and yellow from the main,
While scarce a shadow lines the plain;

Well knows he then the gathering cloud
Shall all his noontide glories shroud.
Like smile of morn before the rain,
Appeared the minstrel's mounting strain.
As easy inexperienced hind,
Who sees not coming rains and wind,
The beacon of the dawning hour,
Nor notes the blink before the shower,
Astonished, mid his open grain,
Sees round him pour the sudden rain,—
So looked the still attentive throng,
When closed at once Macfarlane's song.

Time was it,—when he 'gan to tell
Of spectre stern, and barge of hell;
Loud, and more loud, the minstrel sung;
Loud, and more loud, the chords he rung;
Wild grew his looks, for well he knew
The scene was dread, the tale was true
And ere Loch-Ketturine's wave was won,
Faltered his voice, his breath was done.

He raised his brown hand to his brow,
To veil his eye's enraptured glow ;
Flung back his locks of silver gray,
Lifted his crutch, and limped away.

The Bard of Clyde stepped next in view ;
Fair was his form, his harp was new ;
His eyes were bright, his manner gay,
But plain his garb, and plain his lay.

Earl Walter.

THE ELEVENTH BARD'S SONG.

“ What makes Earl Walter pace the wood
In the wan light of the moon ?
Why altered is Earl Walter's mood
So strangely, and so soon ? ” —

“ Ah ! he is fallen to fight a knight
Whom man could never tame,
To-morrow, in his Sovereign's sight,
Or bear perpetual shame. ” —

“ Go warn the Clyde, go warn the Ayr,
Go warn them suddenly,
If none will fight for Earl Walter,
Some one may fight for me.”—

“ Now hold your tongue, my daughter dear,
Now hold your tongue for shame !
For never shall my son Walter
Disgrace his father's name.

“ Shall ladies tell, and minstrels sing,
How lord of Scottish blood
By proxy fought before his king ?
No, never ! by the rood !”—

Earl Walter rose ere it was day,
For battle made him boun' ;
Earl Walter mounted his bonny gray,
And rode to Stirling town.

Old Hamilton from the tower came down,

“ Go saddle a steed for me,

And I'll away to Stirling town,

This deadly bout to see.

“ Mine eye is dim, my locks are gray,

My cheek is furred and wan ;

Ah, me ! but I have seen the day

I feared not single man !

“ Bring me my steed,” said Hamilton ;

“ Darcie his vaunts may rue ;

Whoever slays my only son

Must fight the father too.

“ Whoever fights my noble son

May foin the best he can ;

Whoever braves Wat Hamilton,

Shall know he braves a man.”—

And there was riding in belt and brand,

And running o'er holt and lea ;

For all the lords of fair Scotland

Came there the fight to see.

And squire, and groom, and baron bold,

Trooping in thousands came,

And many a hind, and warrior old,

And many a lovely dame.

When good Earl Walter rode the ring,

Upon his mettled gray,

There was none so ready as our good king

To bid that Earl good day.

For one so gallant and so young,

Oh, many a heart beat high ;

And no fair eye in all the throng,

Nor rosy cheek, was dry.

But up then spoke the king's daughter,

Fair Margaret was her name,—

“ If we should lose brave Earl Walter,

My sire is sore to blame.

“ Forbid the fight, my liege, I pray,

Upon my bended knee.”—

“ Daughter, I'm loth to say you nay ;

It cannot, must not be.”—

“ Proclaim it round,” the princess cried,

“ Proclaim it suddenly ;

If none will fight for Earl Walter,

Some one may fight for me.

“ In Douglas-dale I have a tower,

With many a holm and hill,

I'll give them all, and ten times more,

To him will Darcie kill.”—

But up then spoke old Hamilton,
And doffed his bonnet blue ;
In his sunk eye the tear-drop shone,
And his gray locks o'er it flew :—

“ Cease, cease, thou lovely royal maid,
Small cause hast thou for pain ;
Wat Hamilton shall have no aid
'Gainst lord of France or Spain.

“ I love my boy ; but should he fly,
Or other for him fight,
Heaven grant that first his parent's eye
May set in endless night !”—

Young Margaret blushed, her weeping staid,
And quietly looked on :
Now Margaret was the fairest maid
On whom the daylight shone.

Her eye was like the star of love,
That blinks across the evening dun ;
The locks that waved that eye above,
Like light clouds curling round the sun.

When Darcie entered in the ring,
A shudder round the circle flew :
Like men who from a serpent spring,
They startled at the view.

His look so fierce, his crest so high,
His belts and bands of gold,
And the glances of his charger's eye
Were dreadful to behold.

But when he saw Earl Walter's face,
So rosy and so young,
He frowned, and sneered with haughty grace,
And round disdainful flung.

“ What ! dost thou turn my skill to sport,
And break thy jests on me ?
Thinkst thou I sought the Scottish court,
To play with boys like thee ?

“ Fond youth, go home and learn to ride ;
For pity get thee gone ;
Tilt with the girls and boys of Clyde,
And boast of what thou’st done.

“ If Darcie’s spear but touch thy breast,
It flies thy body through ;
If Darcie’s sword come o’er thy crest,
It cleaves thy heart in two.”—

“ I came not here to vaunt, Darcie ;
I came not here to scold ;
It ill befits a knight like thee
Such proud discourse to hold.

“ To-morrow boast, amid the throng,
Of deeds which thou hast done;
To-day restrain thy saucy tongue;
Rude blusterer, come on !”—

Rip went the spurs in either steed,
To different posts they sprung;
Quivered each spear o'er charger's head;
Forward each warrior hung.

The horn blew once—the horn blew twice—
Oh ! many a heart beat high !
'Twas silence all !—the horn blew thrice—
Dazzled was every eye.

Hast thou not seen, from heaven, in ire,
The eagle swift descend ?
Hast thou not seen the sheeted fire
The lowering darkness rend ?

Not faster glides the eagle gray
Adown the yielding wind ;
Not faster bears the bolt away,
Leaving the storm behind ;

Than flew the warriors on their way,
With full suspended breath ;
Than flew the warriors on their way
Across the field of death.

So fierce the shock, so loud the clang,
The gleams of fire were seen ;
The rocks and towers of Stirling rang,
And the red blood fell between.

Earl Walter's grey was borne aside,
Lord Darcie's black held on.
" Oh ! ever alack," fair Margaret cried,
" The brave Earl Walter's gone !"
" Oh ! ever alack," the king replied,
" That ever the deed was done !"—

Earl Walter's broken corslet doffed,

He turned with lightened eye ;

His glancing spear he raised aloft,

And seemed to threat the sky.

Lord Darcie's spear, aimed at his breast,

He parried dext'rously ;

Then caught him rudely by the wrist,

Saying, " Warrior, come with me !"—

Lord Darcie drew, Lord Darcie threw ;

But threw and drew in vain ;

Lord Darcie drew, Lord Darcie threw,

And spurred his black amaih.

Down came Lord Darcie, casque and brand

Loud rattled on the clay ;

Down came Earl Walter, hand in hand,

And head to head they lay.

Lord Darcie's steed turned to his lord,
And, trembling, stood behind;
But off Earl Walter's dapple scoured
Far fleeter than the wind;
Nor stop, nor stay, nor gate, nor ford,
Could make her look behind.

O'er holt, o'er hill, o'er slope and slack,
She sought her native stall;
She liked not Darcie's doughty black,
Nor Darcie's spear at all.

"Even go thy ways," Earl Walter cried,
"Since better may not be;
I'll trust my life with weapon tried,
But never again with thee.

"Rise up, Lord Darcie, sey thy brand,
And fling thy mail away;
For foot to foot, and hand to hand,
We'll now decide the day."—

So said, so done ; their helms they flung,
Their doublets linked and sheen ;
And hawberk, armlet, cuirass, rung
Promiscuous on the green.

“ Now, Darcie ! now thy dreaded name,
That oft has chilled a foe,
Thy hard-earned honours, and thy fame,
Depend on every blow.

“ Sharp be thine eye, and firm thy hand ;
Thy heart unmoved remain ;
For never was the Scottish brand
Upreared, and reared in vain.”—

“ Now do thy best, young Hamilton,
Rewarded shalt thou be ;
Thy king, thy country, and thy kin,
All, all depend on thee !

“ Thy father's heart yearns for his son,
The ladies' cheeks grow wan ;
Wat Hamilton ! Wat Hamilton !
Now prove thyself a man !”—

“ What makes Lord Darcie shift and dance
So fast around the plain ?
What makes Lard Darcie strike and lance,
As passion fired his brain ?

“ Lay on, lay on,” said Hamilton ;
“ Thou bear'st thee boist'rously ;
If thou shouldst pelt till day be done,
Thy weapon I defy.

“ What makes Lord Darcie shift and wear
So fast around the plain ?
Why is Lord Darcie's hollands fair
All stripped with crimson grain ?”—

The first blow that Earl Walter made

He clove his bearded chin,

" Beshrew thy heart," Lord Darcie said,

" Ye sharply do begin !"

The next blow that Earl Walter made,

Quite through the gare it ran.

" Now, by my faith," Lord Darcie said,

" That's stricken like a man."

The third blow that Earl Walter made,

It scooped his lordly side.

" Now, by my troth," Lord Darcie said,

" Thy marks are ill to bide."

Lord Darcie's sword he forced a-hight,

And tripped him on the plain.

" O, ever alack," then cried the knight,

" I ne'er shall rise again !"

When good Earl Walter saw he grew
So pale, and lay so low,
Away his brace of swords he threw,
And raised his fainting foe.

Then rang the list with shouts of joy,
Loud and more loud they grew,
And many a bonnet to the sky
And many a coif they threw.

The tear stood in the father's eye,—
He wiped his aged brow,—
“ Give me thy hand, my gallant boy !
I knew thee not till now.

“ My liege, my king, this is my son
Whom I present to thee ;
Nor would I change Wat Hamilton
For all the lads I see !”—

“ Welcome, my friend and warrior old !

 This gallant son of thine

Is much too good for baron bold,

 He must be son of mine !

“ For he shall wed my daughter dear,

 The flower of fair Scotland ;

The badge of honour he shall wear,

 And sit at my right hand.

“ And he shall have the lands of Kyle,

 And royal bounds of Clyde ;

And he shall have all Arran's isle

 To dower his royal bride.”—

The princess smiled, the princess flushed,

 O, but her heart was fain !

And aye her cheek of beauty blushed

 Like rose-bud in the rain.

From this the Hamiltons of Clyde
Their royal lineage draw ;
And thus was won the fairest bride
That Scotland ever saw !

When ceased the lay, the plaudits rung,
Not for the bard, or song he sung ;
But every eye with pleasure shone,
And cast its smiles on one alone,—
That one was princely Hamilton !
And well the gallant chief approved
The bard who sung of sire beloved,
And pleased were all the court to see
The minstrel hailed so courteously.

Again is every courtier's gaze
Speaking suspense, and deep amaze ;
The bard was stately, dark and stern,—
'Twas Drummond, from the moors of Ern.

Tall was his frame, his forehead high,
Still and mysterious was his eye ;
His look was like a winter day,
When storms and winds have sunk away.

Well versed was he in holy lore ;
In cloistered dome the cowl he wore ;
But, wearied with the eternal strain
Of formal breviats, cold and vain,
He wooed, in depth of Highland dale,
The silver spring and mountain gale.

In gray Glen-Ample's forest deep,
Hid from the rains and tempest's sweep,
In bosom of an aged wood
His solitary cottage stood.
Its walls were bastioned, dark, and dorn,
Dark was its roof of filmot fern,
And dark the vista down the linn,
But all was love and peace within.

Religion, man's first friend and best,
Was in that home a constant guest ;
There, sweetly, every morn and even,
Warm orisons were poured to heaven :
And every cliff Glen-Ample knew,
And green wood on her banks that grew,
In answer to his bounding string,
Had learned the hymns of heaven to sing ;
With many a song of mystic lore,
Rude as when sung in days of yore.

His were the snowy flocks, that strayed
Adown Glen-Airtney's forest glade ;
And his the goat, and chesnut hind,
Where proud Ben-Vorlich cleaves the wind :
There oft, when suns of summer shone,
The bard would sit, and muse alone,
Of innocence, expelled by man ;
Of nature's fair and wondrous plan ;
Of the eternal throne sublime,
Of visions seen in ancient time,

Till his rapt soul would leave her home
In visionary worlds to roam.
Then would the mists that wandered bye
Seem hovering spirits to his eye :
Then would the breeze's whistling sweep,
Soft lulling in the cavern deep,
Seem to the enthusiast's dreaming ear
The words of spirits whispering near.

Loathed his firm soul the measured chime
And florid films of modern rhyme ;
No other lays became his tongue
But those his rude forefathers sung.
And when, by wandering minstrel warned,
The mandate of his Queen he learned,
So much he prized the ancient strain,
High hopes had he the prize to gain.
With modest, yet majestic mien,
He tuned his harp of solemn strain :
O list the tale, ye fair and young,
A lay so strange was never sung !

Kilmeny.

THE THIRTEENTH BARD'S SONG.

Bonny Kilmeny gaed up the glen ;
But it wasna to meet Duneira's men,
Nor the rosy monk of the isle to see,
For Kilmeny was pure as pure could be.
It was only to hear the yorlin sing,
And pu' the cress-flower round the spring ;
The scarlet . ypp and the hindberrye,
And the nut that hang frae the hazel tree ;
For Kilmeny was pure as pure could be.
But lang may her minny look o'er the wa',
And lang may she seek i' the green-wood shaw ;
Lang the laird of Duneira blame,
And lang, lang greet or Kilmeny come hame !

When many a day had come and fled,
When grief grew calm, and hope was dead,

When mess for Kilmeny's soul had been sung,
When the bedes-man had prayed, and the dead-
bell rung,

Late, late in a gloamin, when all was still,
When the fringe was red on the westlin hill,
The wood was sere, the moon i' the wane,
The reek o' the cot hung over the plain,
Like a little wee cloud in the world its lane ;
When the ingle lowed with an eiry leme,
Late, late in the gloaming Kilmeny came hame !

“ Kilmeny, Kilmeny, where have you been ?
Lang hae we sought baith holt and den ;
By linn, by ford, and green-wood tree,
Yet you are halesome and fair to see.
Where gat you that joup o' the lilly scheen ?
That bonny snood of the birk sae green ?
And these roses, the fairest that ever were seen ?
Kilmeny, Kilmeny, where have you been ?”—

Kilmeny looked up with a lovely grace,
But nae smile was seen on Kilmeny's face ;
As still was her look, and as still was her ee,
As the stillnes that lay on the emerant lea,
Or the mist that sleeps on a waveless sea.
For Kilmeny had been she knew not where,
And Kilmeny had seen what she could not de-
clare ;
Kilmeny had been where the cock never crew,
Where the rain never fell, and the wind never
blew.

But it seemed as the harp of the sky had rung,
And the airs of heaven played round her tongue,
When she spake of the lovely forms she had seen,
And a land where sin had never been ;
A land of love, and a land of light,
Withouten sun, or moon, or night :
Where the river swa'd a living stream,
And the light a pure celestial beam :
The land of vision it would seem,
A still, an everlasting dream.

In yon green-wood there is a waik,
And in that waik there is a wene,
And in that wene there is a maike,
That neither has flesh, blood, nor bane;
And down in yon green-wood he walks his lane.

In that green wene Kilmeny lay,
Her bosom happed wi' the flowerits gay;
But the air was soft and the silence deep,
And bonny Kilmeny fell sound asleep.
She kend nae mair, nor opened her ee,
Till waked by the hymns of a far countrie.

She 'wakened on couch of the silk sae slim,
All striped wi' the bars of the rainbow's rim;
And lovely beings round were rife,
Who erst had travelled mortal life;
And aye they smiled, and 'gan to speer,
"What spirit has brought this mortal here?"—

"Lang have I journeyed the world wide,"
A meek and reverend fere replied;

“ Baith night and day I have watched the fair,
Eident a thousand years and mair.
Yes, I have watched o’er ilk degree,
Wherever blooms femenitye ;
But sinless virgin, free of stain
In mind and body, fand I nane.
Never, since the banquet of time,
Found I virgin in her prime,
Till late this bonny maiden I saw
As spotless as the morning snaw :
Full twenty years she has lived as free
As the spirits that sojourn this countrie.
I have brought her away frae the snares of men,
That sin or death she never may ken.”—

They clasped her waiste and her hands sae fair,
They kissed her cheek, and they kemed her hair,
And round came many a blooming fere,
Saying, “ Bonny Kilmeny, ye’re welcome here !
Women are freed of the littand scorn :
O, blessed be the day Kilmeny was born !

Now shall the land of the spirits see,
Now shall it ken what a woman may be !
Many a lang year in sorrow and pain,
Many a lang year thro' the world we've gane,
Commissioned to watch fair womankind,
For its they who nurice th' immortal mind.
We have watched their steps as the dawning shone,
And deep in the green-wood walks alone ;
By lilly bower and silken bed,
The viewless tears have o'er them shed ;
Have soothed their ardent minds to sleep,
Or left the couch of love to weep.
We have seen ! we have seen ! but the time must
 come,
And the angels will weep at the day of doom !

“ O, would the fairest of mortal kind
Aye keep the holy truths in mind,
That kindred spirits their motions see,
Who watch their ways with anxious ee,
And grieve for the guilt of humanitie !

O, sweet to heaven the maiden's prayer,
And the sigh that heaves a bosom sae fair !
And dear to heaven the words of truth,
And the praise of virtue frae beauty's mouth !
And dear to the viewless forms of air,
The minds that kyth as the body fair !

“ O, bonny Kilmeny ! free frae stain,
If ever you seek the world again,
That world of sin, of sorrow, and fear,
O, tell of the joys that are waiting here !
And tell of the signs you shall shortly see ;
Of the times that are now, and the times that
shall be.”—

They lifted Kilmeny, they led her away,
And she walked in the light of a sunless day :
The sky was a dome of crystal bright,
The fountain of vision, and fountain of light :
The emerald fields were of dazzling glow,
And the flowers of everlasting blow.

Then deep in the stream her body they laid,
That her youth and beauty never might fade ;
And they smiled on heaven, when they saw her lie
In the stream of life that wandered bye.
And she heard a song, she heard it sung,
She kend not where ; but sae sweetly it rung,
It fell on her ear like a dream of the morn :
“ O ! blest be the day Kilmeny was born !
Now shall the land of the spirits see,
Now shall it ken what a woman may be !
The sun that shines on the world sae bright,
A borrowed gleid frae the fountain of light ;
And the moon that sleeks the sky sae dun,
Like a gouden bow, or a beamless sun,
Shall wear away, and be seen nae mair,
And the angels shall miss them travelling the air.
But lang, lang after baith night and day,
When the sun and the world have elyed away ;
When the sinner has gane to his waesome doom,
Kilmeny shall smile in eternal bloom !”—

They bore her away she wist not how,
For she felt not arm nor rest below;
But so swift they wained her through the light,
'Twas like the motion of sound or sight;
They seemed to split the gales of air,
And yet nor gale nor breeze was there.
Unnumbered groves below them grew,
They came, they past, and backward flew,
Like floods of blossoms gliding on,
In moment seen, in moment gone.
O, never vales to mortal view
Appeared like those o'er which they flew!
That land to human spirits given,
The lowermost vales of the storied heaven;
From thence they can view the world below,
And heaven's blue gates with sapphires glow,
More glory yet unmeet to know.

They bore her far to a mountain green,
To see what mortal never had seen;

And they seated her high on a purple sward,
And bade her heed what she saw and heard,
And note the changes the spirits wrought,
For now she lived in the land of thought.
She looked, and she saw nor sun nor skies,
But a crystal dome of a thousand dies.
She looked, and she saw nae land aright,
But an endless whirl of glory and light.
And radiant beings went and came
Far swifter than wind, or the linked flame.
She hid her een frae the dazzling view ;
She looked again and the scene was new.

She saw a sun on a summer sky,
And clouds of amber sailing bye ;
A lovely land beneath her lay,
And that land had glens and mountains gray ;
And that land had vallies and hoary piles,
And marled seas, and a thousand isles :
Its fields were speckled, its forests green,
And its lakes were all of the dazzling sheen,

Like magic mirrors, where slumbering lay
The sun and the sky and the cloudlet gray;
Which heaved and trembled and gently swung,
On every shore they seemed to be hung;
For there they were seen on their downward plain
A thousand times and a thousand again;
In winding lake and placid firth,
Little peaceful heavens in the bosom of earth.

Kilmeny sighed and seemed to grieve,
For she found her heart to that land did cleave;
She saw the corn wave on the vale,
She saw the deer run down the dale;
She saw the plaid and the broad claymore,
And the brows that the badge of freedom bore;
And she thought she had seen the land before.

She saw a lady sit on a throne,
The fairest that ever the sun shone on!

A lion licked her hand of milk,
And she held him in a leish of silk ;
And a leifu' maiden stood at her knee,
With a silver wand and melting ee ;
Her sovereign shield till love stole in,
And poisoned all the fount within.

Then a gruff untoward bedeman came,
And hundit the lion on his dame ;
And the guardian maid wi' the dauntless ee,
She dropped a tear, and left her knee ;
And she saw till the queen frae the lion fled,
Till the bonniest flower of the world lay dead.
A coffin was set on a distant plain,
And she saw the red blood fall like rain :
Then bonny Kilmeny's heart grew sair,
And she turned away, and could look nae mair.

Then the gruff grim carle girmed amain,
And they trampled him down, but he rose again ;

And he baited the lion to deeds of weir,
Till he lapped the blood to the kingdom dear;
And weening his head was danger-preef,
When crowned with the rose and clover leaf,
He gowled at the carle and chased him away,
To feed wi' the deer on the mountain gray.
He gowled at the carle, and he gecked at heaven,
But his mark was set, and his arles given.
Kilmeny a while her een withdrew;
She looked again, and the scene was new.

She saw below her fair unfurled
One half of all the glowing world,
Where oceans rolled, and rivers ran,
To bound the aims of sinful man.
She saw a people, fierce and fell,
Burst frae their bounds like fiends of hell;
There lilies grew, and the eagle flew,
And she herked on her ravening crew,
Till the cities and towers were wrapt in a blaze,
And the thunder it roared o'er the lands and the seas.

The widows they wailed, and the red blood ran,
And she threatned an end to the race of man :
She never lened, nor stood in awe,
Till claught by the lion's deadly paw.
Oh ! then the eagle swinked for life,
And brainzelled up a mortal strife ;
But flew she north, or flew she south,
She met wi' the gowl of the lion's mouth.

With a mooted wing and waefu' maen,
The eagle sought her eiry again ;
But lang may she cour in her bloody nest,
And lang, lang sleek her wounded breast,
Before she sey another flight,
To play wi' the norland lion's might.

But to sing the sights Kilmeny saw,
So far surpassing nature's law,
The singer's voice wad sink away,
And the string of his harp wad cease to play.

But she saw till the sorrows of man were bye,
And all was love and harmony;
Till the stars of heaven fell calmly away,
Like the flakes of snaw on a winter day.

Then Kilmeny begged again to see
The friends she had left in her own country,
To tell of the place where she had been,
And the glories that lay in the land unseen;
To warn the living maidens fair,
The loved of heaven, the spirits' care,
That all whose minds unmeled remain
Shall bloom in beauty when time is gane.

With distant music, soft and deep,
They lulled Kilmeny sound asleep;
And when she awakened, she lay her lane,
All happed with flowers in the green-wood wene.
When seven lang years had come and fled;
When grief was calm, and hope was dead;

When scarce was remembered Kilmeny's name,
Late, late in a gloamin Kilmeny came hame !

And O, her beauty was fair to see,
But still and stedfast was her ee !
Such beauty bard may never declare,
For there was no pride nor passion there ;
And the soft desire of maidens een
In that mild face could never be seen.
Her seymar was the lilly flower,
And her cheek the moss-rose in the shower ;
And her voice like the distant melodye,
That floats along the twilight sea.
But she loved to raikie the lanely glen,
And keeped afar frae the haunts of men ;
Her holy hymns unheard to sing,
To suck the flowers, and drink the spring.
But wherever her peaceful form appeared,
The wild beasts of the hill were cheered ;

The wolf played blythly round the field,
The lordly byson lowed and kneeled;
The dun deer wooed with manner bland,
And cowered aneath her lilly hand.
And when at even the woodlands rung,
When hymns of other worlds she sung,
In extacy of sweet devotion,
O, then the glen was all in motion.
The wild beasts of the forest came,
Broke from their bughts and faulds the tame,
And goved around, charmed and amazed;
Even the dull cattle crooned and gazed,
And murmured and looked with anxious pain
For something the mystery to explain.
The buzzard came with the thistle-cock;
The corby left her houf in the rock;
The blackbird alang wi' the eagle flew;
The hind came tripping o'er the dew;
The wolf and the kid their raike began,
And the tod, and the lamb, and the leveret ran;

The hawk and the hern attour them hung,
And the merl and the mavis forhooyed their young;
And all in a peaceful ring were hurled :
It was like an eve in a sinless world !

When a month and a day had come and gane,
Kilmeny sought the greenwood wene ;
There laid her down on the leaves sae green,
And Kilmeny on earth was never mair seen.
But O, the words that fell from her mouth,
Were words of wonder, and words of truth !
But all the land were in fear and dread,
For they kendna whether she was living or dead.
It wasna her hame, and she couldna remain ;
She left this world of sorrow and pain,
And returned to the land of thought again.

He ceased; and all with kind concern
Blest in their hearts the bard of Ern.

By that the chill and piercing air,
The pallid hue of ladies fair,
The hidden yawn, and drumbly eye,
Loudly announced the morning nigh.
Beckoned the Queen with courteous smile,
And breathless silence gazed the while :—

“ I hold it best, my lords,” she said,
“ For knight, for dame, and lovely maid,
At wassail, wake, or revel hall,
To part before the senses pall.
Sweet though the draught of pleasure be,
Why should we drain it to the lee?
Though here the minstrel's fancy play,
Light as the breeze of summer-day ;
Though there in solemn cadence flow,
Smooth as the night-wind o'er the snow ;
Now bound away with rolling sweep,
Like tempest o'er the raving deep ;
High on the morning's golden screen,
Or casemate of the rainbow lean ;—

Such beauties were in vain prolonged,
The soul is cloyed, the minstrel wronged.

“ Loud is the morning-blast, and chill,
The snow-drift speeds along the hill ;
Let ladies of the storm beware,
And lords of ladies take a care ;
From lanes and alleys guard them well,
Where lurking ghost or sprite may dwell ;
But most avoid the dazzling flare,
And spirit of the morning air ;
Hide from their eyes that hideous form,
The ruthless angel of the storm.
I wish, for every gallant's sake,
That none may rue our royal wake :
I wish what most his heart approves,
And every lady what she loves,—
Sweet be her sleep on bed of down,
And pleasing be her dreams till noon.
And when you hear the bugle's strain,
I hope to see you all again.”—

Whether the Queen to fear inclined,
Or spoke to cheer the minstrel's mind,
Certes, she spoke with meaning leer,
And ladies smiled her words to hear.
Yet, though the dawn of morning shone,
No lady from that night-wake gone,
Not even the Queen, durst sleep alone.
And scarce had Sleep, with throb and sigh,
O'er breast of snow, and moistened eye,
Outspread his shadowy canopy,
When every feryid female mind,
Or sailed with witches on the wind,
Drank, unobserved, the potent wine,
Or floated on the foamy brine.
Some strove the land of thought to win,
Impelled by hope, withstood by sin ;
And some with angry spirit stood
By lonely stream, or pathless wood.
And oft was heard the broken sigh,
The half-formed prayer, and smothered cry ;

So much the minds of old and young
Were moved by what the minstrels sung.
What Lady Gordon did or said
Could not be learned from lady's maid,
And Huntley swore and shook his head.
But she and all her buskined train
Appeared not at the wake again.

END OF NIGHT THE SECOND.

THE
QUEEN'S WAKE.

NIGHT THE THIRD.

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COLLEGE ALGEBRA
OF FUNCTIONS AND GRAPHS

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CHICAGO, ILL.: THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS, 1995

ISBN 0-924646-00-0

1. Algebra—Textbooks. I. Roy, J. J. II. Roy, J. J.

QA153.3.R69 1995

510.13—dc20

THE
QUEEN'S WAKE

NIGHT THE THIRD.

THE storm had ceased to shroud the hill;
The morning's breath was pure and chill;
And when the sun rose from the main,
No eye the glory could sustain.
The icicles so dazzling bright;
The spreading wold so smooth and white;
The cloudless sky, the air so sheen,
That roes on Pentland's top were seen;

And Grampian mountains, frowning high,
Seemed froze amid the northern sky.
The frame was braced, the mind set free
To feat, or brisk hilarity.

The sun, far on his southern throne,
Glowed in stern majesty alone :
'Twas like the loved, the toilsome day,
That dawns on mountains west away,
When the furred Indian hunter hastes
Far up his Appalachian wastes,
To range the savage haunts, and dare
In his dark home the sullen bear.
And ere that noonday-sun had shone
Right on the banks of Duddingston,
Heavens ! what a scene of noise and glee,
And busy brisk anxiety !
There age and youth their pastime take
On the smooth ice that chained the lake.
The Highland chief, the Border knight,
In waving plumes, and baldricks bright,

Join in the bloodless friendly war,
The sounding-stone to hurl afar.
The hair-breadth aim, the plaudits due,
The rap, the shout, the ardour grew,
Till drowsy day her curtain drew.

• The youth, on cramps of polished steel,
Joined in the race, the curve, the wheel ;
With arms outstretched, and foot aside,
Like lightning o'er the lake they glide ;
And eastward far their impulse keep,
Like angels journeying o'er the deep.

When night her spangled flag unfurled
Wide o'er a wan and sheeted world,
In keen debate homeward they hie,
For well they knew the wake was nigh.

By mountain sheer, and column tall,
How solemn was that evening fall !
The air was calm, the stars were bright,
The hoar frost flightered down the night ;

But oft the listning groups stood still,
For spirits talked along the hill.
The fairy tribes had gone to won
In southland climes beneath the sun ;
By shady woods, and waters sheen,
And vales of everlasting green,
To sing of Scotia's woodlands wild,
Where human face had never smiled.
The ghost had left the haunted yew,
The wayward bogle fled the clough,
The darksome pool of crisp and foam
Was now no more the kelpie's home :
But polar spirits sure had spread
O'er hills which native fays had fled ;
For all along from cliff and tree,
On Arthur's hill, and Salisbury,
Came voices floating down the air
From viewless shades that lingered there :
The words were fraught with mystery ;
Voices of men they could not be.
Youths turned their faces to the sky,
With beating heart, and bended eye ;

Old chieftains walked with hastened tread,
Loath that their hearts should bow to dread.
They feared the spirits of the hill
To sinful Scotland boded ill.

Orion up his baldrick drew,
The evening star was still in view,
Scarce had the Pleiades cleared the main,
Or Charles reyoked his golden wain,
When from the palace-turrets rang
The bugle's note with warning clang ;
Each tower, each spire, in music spake,
" Haste, nobles, to Queen Mary's wake."
The blooming maid ran to bedight,
In spangled lace, and robe of white,
That graceful emblem of her youth,
Of guileless heart, and maiden truth.
The matron decked her candid frame
In moony broach, and silk of flame ;
And every Earl and Baron bold
Sparkled in clasp and loop of gold.

'Twas the last night of hope and fear,
That bards could sing, or Sovereign hear ;
And just ere rose the Christmas sun,
The envied prize was lost and won.

The bard that night who foremost came
Was not enrolled, nor known his name ;
A youth he was of manly mold,
Gentle as lamb, as lion bold ;
But his fair face, and forehead high
Glowed with intrusive modesty.

'Twas said by bank of southland stream
Glided his youth in soothing dream ;
The harp he loved, and wont to stray
Far to the wilds and woods away,
And sing to brooks that gurgled bye
Of maiden's form and maiden's eye ;
That, when this dream of youth was past,
Deep in the shade his harp he cast ;

In busy life his cares beguiled,
His heart was true, and fortune smiled.
But when the royal wake began,
Joyful he came the foremost man,
To see the matchless bard approved,
And list the strains he once had loved.

Two nights had passed—the bards had sung;—
Queen Mary's harp from ceiling hung,
On which was graved her lovely mold,
Beset with crowns and flowers of gold;
And many a gem of dazzling dye
Glowed on that prize to minstrel's eye.

The youth had heard each minstrel's strain,
And, fearing northern bard would gain,
To try his youthful skill was moved,
Not for himself, but friends he loved.

Mary Scott.

THE FOURTEENTH BARD'S SONG.

Lord Pringle's steed neighs in the stall,
His panoply is irksome grown,
His plumed helm hangs in the hall,
His broad claymore is berry brown.

No more his bugle's evening peal
Bids vassal arm and yeoman ride,
To drive the deer of Otterdale,
Or foray on the Border side.

Instead of hoop and battle knell,
Of warrior's song, and revel free,
Is heard the lute's voluptuous swell
Within the halls of Torwoodlee.

Sick lies his heart without relief;

'Tis love that breeds the warrior's woe,

For daughter of a froward chief,

A freebooter, his mortal foe.

But O, that maiden's form of grace,

And eye of love, to him were dear !

The smile that dimpled on her face

Was deadlier than the Border spear.

That form was not the poplar's stem,

That smile the dawning's purple line;

Nor was that eye the dazzling gem

That glows adown the Indian mine.

But would you praise the poplar pale,

Or morn in wreath of roses drest ;

The fairest flower that woos the vale,

Or down that clothes the solan's breast ;

A thousand times beyond, above,
What rapt enthusiast ever saw ;
Compare them to that mould of love,—
Young Mary Scott of Tushilaw !

The war-flame glows on Ettrick pen,
Bounds forth the foray swift as wind,
And Tushilaw and all his men
Have left their homes afar behind.

O lady, lady, learn thy creed,
And mark the watch-dog's boist'rous din
The abbot comes with book and bead,
O haste and let the father in !

And, lady, mark his locks so gray,
His beard so long, and colour wan;
O he has mourned for many a day,
And sorrowed o'er the sins of man !

And yet so stately is his mien,

His step so firm, and breast so bold ;

His brawny leg and form, I ween,

Are wonderous for a man so old.

Short was his greeting, short and low,

His blessing short as prayer could be ;

But oft he sighed, and boded woe,

And spoke of sin and misery.

To shrift, to shrift, now ladies all,

Your prayers and Ave Marias learn ;

Haste, -trembling, to the vesper hall,

For ah ! the priest is dark and stern.

Short was the task of lady old,

Short as confession well could be ;

The abbot's orisons were cold,

His absolutions frank and free.

Go, Mary Scott, thy spirit meek
Lay open to the searcher's eye ;
And let the tear bedew thy cheek,
Thy sins are of a crimson dye.

For many a lover thou hast slain,
And many yet lies sick for thee,—
Young Gilmanscleuch and Deloraine,
And Pringle, lord of Torwoodlee.

Tell every wish thy bosom near,
No other sin, dear maid, hast thou ;
And well the abbot loves to hear
Thy plights of love and simple vow.

“ Why stays my Mary Scott so long ?
What guilt can youth and beauty wail ?
Of fervent thought and passion strong,
Heavens ! what a sickening tedious tale ! ”

O lady, cease ; the maiden's mind,
Though pure as morning's cloudless beam,
A crime in every wish can find,
In noontide glance, and midnight dream.

To woman's heart when fair and free,
Her sins seem great and manifold ;
When sunk in guilt and misery,
No crime can then her soul behold.

'Tis sweet to see the opening flower
Spread its fair bosom to the sun ;
'Tis sweet to hear in vernal bower
The thrush's earliest hymn begun :

But sweeter far the prayer that wrings
The tear from maiden's beaming eye ;
And sweeter far the hymn she sings
In grateful holy ecstasy.

The mass was said, but cold and dry

That mass to heaven the father sent ;

With book, and bead, and rosary,

The abbot to his chamber went.

The watch-dog rests with folded eye

Beneath the portal's gray festoon ;

The wildered Ettrick wanders bye,

Loud murmuring to the careless moon.

The warder lists with hope and dread

Far'distant shout of fray begun ;

The cricket tunes his tiny reed,

And harps behind the embers dun.

Why does the warder bend his head,

And silent stand the casement near ?

The cricket stops his little reed,

The sound of gentle step to hear.

O many a wight from Border brake
Has reaved the drowsy warden round ;
And many a daughter lain awake,
When parents trowed them sleeping sound.

The abbot's bed is well down spread,
The abbot's bed is soft and fair,
The abbot's bed is cold as lead—
For why ?—the abbot is not there.

Was that the blast of bugle, borne
Far on the night-wind, wavering shrill ?
'Tis nothing but the shepherd's horn
That keeps the watch on Cacara hill.

What means the warder's answering note ?
The moon is west, 'tis near the day ;
I thought I heard the warriors shout,
'Tis time the abbot were away !

The bittern mounts the morning air,
And rings the sky with quivering croon ;
The watch-dog sallies from his lair,
And bays the wind and setting moon.

'Tis not the breeze, nor bittern's wail,
Has roused the guarder from his den ;
Along the bank, in belt and mail,
Comes Tushilaw and all his men,

The abbot, from his casement, saw
The forest chieftain's proud array ;
He heard the voice of Tushilaw—
The abbot's heart grew cold as clay !

“ Haste, maidens, call my lady fair,
That room may for my warriors be ;
And bid my daughter come and share
The cup of joy with them and me,

“ Say we have fought and won the fray,
Have lowered our haughty foeman's pride ;
And we have driven the richest prey
That ever lowed by Ettrick side.”—

To hear a tale of vanquished foes
His lady came right cheerfully ;
And Mary Scott, like morning rose,
Stood blushing at her father's knee.

Fast flowed the warrior's ruthless tale,
And aye the red cup passed between ;
But Mary Scott grew lily pale,
And trembled like the aspin green.

“ Now, lady, give me welcome cheer,
Queen of the border thou shalt be ;
For I have brought thee gold and gear,
And humbled haughty Torwoodlee.

“ I beat his yeomen in the glen,
I loosed his horses from the stall,
I slew the blood-hound in his den,
And sought the chief through tower and hall.

“ ’Tis said in hamlet mean and dark
Nightly he lies with leman dear ;
O, I would give ten thousand mark,
To see his head upon my spear !

“ Go, maidens, every mat be spread
On heather, haum, or roegrass heap,
And make for me the scarlet bed,
For I have need of rest and sleep.”—

“ Nay, my good lord, make other choice,
In that you cannot rest to-day ;
For there in peaceful slumber lies
A holy abbot, old and gray.”

The chieftain's cheek to crimson grew,

Dropt from his hand the rosy wine—

“ An abbot ! curse the canting crew !

An abbot sleep in couch of mine !

“ Now, lady, as my soul shall thrive,

I'd rather trust my child and thee

With my two greatest foes alive,

The king of Scots and Torwoodlee.

“ The lazy hoard of Melrose vale

Has brought my life, my all to stake :

O, lady ! I have heard a tale,

The thought o't makes my heart to ache !

“ Go, warriors, hale the villain forth,

Bring not his loathful form to me ;

The gate stands open to the north,

The rope hangs o'er the gallows tree.

“ There shall the burning breeze of noon
Rock the old sensual sluggard blind ;
There let him swing, till sun and moon
Have three times left the world behind.”—

O abbot, abbot, say thy prayers,
With orisons load every breath ;
The forest trooper's on the stairs,
To drag thee to a shameful death.

O abbot, abbot, quit thy bed,
Ill armed art thou to meet the strife ;
Haste, don thy beard, and quoif thy head,
And guard the door for death or life.

Thy arm is firm, thy heart is stout,
Yet thou canst neither fight nor flee ;
But beauty stands thy guard without,
Yes, beauty weeps and pleads for thee.

Proud, ruthless man, by vengeance driven,

Regardless hears a brother plead ;

Regardless sees the brand of heaven

Red quivering o'er his guilty head :

But once let woman's soothing tongue

Implore his help or clemency,

Around him let her arms be flung,

Or at his feet her bended knee ;

The world's a shadow ! vengeance sleeps !

The child of reason stands revealed—

When beauty pleads, when woman weeps,

He is not man who scorns to yield.

Stern Tushilaw is gone to sleep,

Laughing at woman's dread of sin ;

But first he bade his warriors keep

All robbers out, and abbots in.

The abbot from his casement high
Looked out to see the peep of day ;
The scene that met the abbot's eye
Filled him with wonder and dismay.

'Twas not the dews of dawning mild,
The mountain's hues of silver gray,
Nor yet the Ettrick's windings wild,
By belted holm and bosky brae ;

Nor moorland Rankleburn, that raved
By covert, clough, and greenwood shaw ;
Nor dappled flag of day, that waved
In streamers pale from Gilmans-law :

But many a doubted ox there lay
At rest upon the castle lea ;
And there he saw his gallant gray,
And all the steeds of Torwoodlee.

" Beshrew the wont !" the abbot said,

" The charge runs high for lodging here ;
The guard is deep, the path way-laid,
My homilies shall cost me dear.

" Come well, come woe, with dauntless core

I'll kneel, and con my breviary ;
If Tushilaw is versed in lore,
'Twill be an awkward game with me."—

Now Tushilaw he waked and slept,

And dreamed and thought till noontide hour ;
But aye this query upmost kept,
" What seeks the abbot in my tower ?"

Stern Tushilaw came down the stair

With doubtful and indignant eye,
And found the holy man at prayer,
With book, and cross, and rosary.

“ To book, to book, thou reaver red,
Of absolution thou hast need ;
The sword of heaven hangs o'er thy head,
Death is thy doom, and hell thy meed !”—

“ I'll take my chance, thou priest of sin,
Thy absolutions I disdain ;
But I will noose thy bearded chin,
If thus thou talkest to me again.

“ Declare thy business, and thy name,
Or short the route to thee is given !”—
“ The abbot I of Coldinghame,
My errand is the cause of heaven.”—

“ That shalt thou prove ere we two part ;
Some robber thou, or royal spy :
But, villain, I will search thy heart,
And chain thee in the deep to lie !

Hence with thy rubbish, hest and ban,
Whinyards to keep the weak in awe ;
The scorn of heaven, the shame of man—
No books nor beads for Tushilaw !”—

“ Oh ! lost to mercy, faith, and love !
Thy bolts and chains are nought to me ;
I'll call an angel from above,
That soon will set the pris'ner free.”—

Bold Tushilaw, o'er strone and steep,
Pursues the roe and dusky deer ;
The abbot lies in dungeon deep,
The maidens wail, the matrons fear.

The sweetest flower on Ettrick shaw
Bends its fair form o'er grated keep ;
Young Mary Scott of Tushilaw
Sleeps but to sigh, and wakes to weep.

Bold Tushilaw, with horn and hound,
Pursues the deer o'er holt and lea ;
And rides and rules the Border round,
From Philiphaugh to Gilnockye.

His page rode down by Melrose fair,
His page rode down by Coldinghame ;
But not a priest was missing there,
Nor abbot, friar, nor monk of name.

The evening came ; it was the last
The abbot in this world should see ;
The bonds are firm, the bolts are fast,
No angel comes to set him free.

Yes, at the stillest hour of night
Softly unfolds the iron door ;
Beamed through the gloom unwonted light,
That light a beauteous angel bore.

Fair was the form that o'er him hung,
And fair the hands that set him free;
The trembling whispers of her tongue
Softer than seraph's melody.

The abbot's soul was all on flame,
Wild transport through his bosom ran;
For never angel's airy frame
Was half so sweet to mortal man !

Why walks young Mary Scott so late,
In veil and cloak of cramasye ?
The porter opens wide the gate,
His bonnet moves, and bends his knee.

Long may the wondering porter wait,
Before the lady form return ;
" Speed, abbot, speed, nor halt nor bate,
Nor look thou back to Rankleburn !"

The day arrives, the ladies plead
In vain for yon mysterious wight ;
For Tushilaw his doom decreed,
Were he an abbot, lord, or knight.

The chieftain called his warriors stout,
And ranged them round the gallows tree,
Then bade them bring the abbot out,
The fate of fraud that all might see.

The men return of sense bereft,
Faulter their tongues, their eye-balls glare ;
The door was locked, the fetters left—
All close ! the abbot was not there !

The wondering warriors bow to God,
And matins to the virgin hum ;
But Tushilaw he gloomed and strode,
And walked into the castle dumb.

But to the Virgin's sacred name

The vow was paid in many a cell ;

And many a rich oblation came,

For that amazing miracle.

Lord Pringle walked his glens alone,

Nor flock nor lowing herd he saw ;

But even the king upon the throne

Quaked at the name of Tushilaw.

Lord Pringle's heart was all on flame,

Nor peace nor joy his bosom knew,

'Twas for the kindest, sweetest dame,

That ever brushed the Forest dew.

Gone is one month with smile and sigh,

With dream by night and wish by day ;

A second came with moistened eye ;

Another came and passed away.

Why is the flower of yonder pile
 Bending its stem to court decay,
And Mary Scott's benignant smile
 Like sun-beam in a winter day?

Sometimes her colour's like the rose,
 Sometimes 'tis like the lily pale;
The flower that in the forest grows
 Is fallen before the summer gale.

A mother's fostering breast is warm,
 And dark her doubts of love I ween:
For why?—she felt its early harm—
 A mother's eye is sharp and keen!

'Tis done! the woman stands revealed!
 Stern Tushilaw is waked to see;
The bearded priest so well concealed,
 Was Pringle, lord of Torwoodlee!

Oh never was the thunder's jar,
The red tornado's wasting wing,
Nor all the elemental war,
Like fury of the Border king.

He laughed aloud—his faulchion eyed—
A laugh of burning vengeance borne!—
“Does thus the coward trow,” he cried,
“To hold his conqueror's power to scorn!”

“Thinks Tushilaw of maids or wives,
Or such a thing as Torwoodlee!
Had Mary Scott a thousand lives,
These lives were all too few for me!”

“Ere midnight, in the secret cave,
This sword shall pierce her bosom's core,
Though I go childless to my grave,
And rue the deed for evermore!”

“ O had I lulled the imp to rest

When first she lisped her name to me,

Or pierced her little guileless breast

When smiling on her nurse's knee !”—

“ Just is your vengeance, my good lord,

'Tis just and right our daughter die ;

For sharper than a foeman's sword

Is family shame and injury.

“ But trust the ruthless deed to me ;

I have a vial potent, good ;

Unmeet that all the Scotts should see

A daughter's corse embalmed in blood !

“ Unmeet her gallant kinsmen know

The guilt of one so fair and young ;

No cup should to her mem'ry flow,

No requiem o'er her grave be sung.

“ My potent draught has erst proved true

Beneath my own and husband's eye ;

Trust me, ere falls the morning dew,

In dreamless sleep shall Mary lie !”—

“ Even go thy way, thy words are true,

I knew thy dauntless soul before ;

But list—if thou deceivest me too,

Thou hast a head ! I say no more.”—

Stern Tushilaw strode o'er the ley,

And, wondering, by the twilight saw

A crystal tear drop from his eye,

The first e'er shed by Tushilaw !

O grievous are the bonds of steel,

And blasted hope 'tis hard to prove ;

More grievous far it is to feel

Ingratitude from those we love.

“ What brings my lady mother here,
Pale as the morning shower and cold ?
In her dark eye why stands the tear ?
Why in her hand a cup of gold ?”—

“ My Mary, thou art ill at rest,
Fervid and feverish is thy blood ;
Still yearns o'er thee thy mother's breast,
Take this, my child, 'tis for thy good !”—

O sad, sad was young Mary's plight !
She took the cup—no word she spake :
She had even wished that very night
To sleep, and never more to wake.

She took the cup—she drank it dry,
Then pillowed soft her beauteous head,
And calmly watched her mother's eye ;
But O that eye was hard to read !

Her moistened eyes, so mild and meek,

Soon sunk their auburn fringe beneath ;

The ringlets on her damask cheek

Heaved gentler with her stealing breath !

She turned her face unto the wall,

Her colour changed to pallid clay ;

Long ere the dews began to fall,

The flower of Ettrick lifeless lay !

Why underneath her winding sheet

Does broidered silk her form enfold ?

Why is cold Mary's buskined feet

All laced with belts and bands of gold ?

“ What boots to me these robes so gay ?

To wear them now no child have I !

They should have graced her bridal day,

Now they must in the church-yard lie !

“ I thought to see my daughter ride,
In golden gear and cramasye,
To Mary's fane, the loveliest bride
E'er to the Virgin bent the knee.

“ Now I may by her funeral wain
Ride silent o'er the mountain gray :
Her revel hall, the gloomy fane ;
Her bridal bed, the cheerless clay !”—

Why that rich snood with plume and lace
Round Mary's lifeless temples drawn ?
Why is the napkin o'er her face,
A fragment of the lily lawn ?

“ My Mary has another home ;
And far, far though her journey be,
When she to Paradise shall come,
Then will my child remember me !”—

O many a flower was round her spread,

And many a pearl and diamond bright,

And many a window round her head

Shed on her form a bootless light !

Lord Pringle sat on Maygill brae,

Pondering on war and vengeance meet ;

The Cadan toiled in narrow way,

The Tweed rolled far beneath his feet.

Not Tweed, by gulf and whirlpool mazed,

Through dark wood-glen, by him was seen ;

For still his thought-set eye was raised

To Ettrick mountains, wild and green.

Sullen he sat, unstaid, unblest,

He thought of battle, broil, and blood ;

He never crossed, he never wist

Till by his side a Palmer stood.

“ Haste, my good lord, this letter read,

Ill bodes it listless thus to be ;

Upon a die I've set my head,

And brought this letter far to thee.”—

Lord Pringle looked this letter on,

His face grew pale as winter sky ;

But, ere the half of it was done,

The tear of joy stood in his eye.

A purse he to the Palmer threw,

Mounted the cleft of aged tree,

Three times aloud his bugle blew,

And hasted home to Torwoodlee.

'Twas scarcely past the hour of noon

When first the foray whoop began ;

And, in the wan light of the moon,

Through March and Teviotdale it ran.

Far to the south it spread away,
Startled the hind by fold and tree;
And aye the watch-word of the fray
Was, " Ride for Ker and Torwoodlee !"

When next the day began to fade,
The warriors round their chieftains range;
And many a solemn vow they made,
And many an oath of fell revenge.

The Pringles' plumes indignant dance—
It was a gallant sight to see;
And many a Ker, with sword and lance,
Stood rank and file on Torwoodlee.

As they fared up yon craigy glen,
Where Tweed sweeps round the Thorny-hill,
Old Gideon Murray and his men
The foray joined with right good-will.

They hasted up to Ploro side,
And north above Mount-Benger turn,
And lothly forced with them to ride
Black Douglas of the Craigy-burn.

When they came nigh Saint Mary's lake
The day-sky glimmered on the dew;
They hid their horses in the brake,
And lurked in heath and braken clough.

The lake one purple valley lay,
Where tints of glowing light were seen;
The ganza waved his cuneal way,
With yellow oar and quoif of green.

The dark cock bayed above the coomb,
Throned mid the wavy fringe of gold,
Unwreathed from dawning's fairy loom,
In many a soft vermilion fold.

The tinty skiffs of silver mist
 Lingered along the slumbering vale ;
Belled the gray stag with fervid breast
 High on the moors of Meggat-dale.

There hid in clough and hollow den,
 Gazing around the still sublime,
There lay Lord Pringle and his men
 On beds of heath and moorland thyme.

That morning found rough Tushilaw
 In all the father's guise appear ;
An end of all his hopes he saw
 Shrouded in Mary's gilded bier.

No eye could trace without concern
 The suffering warrior's troubled look ;
The throbs that heaved his bosom stern,
 No ear could bear, no heart could brook.

“ Woe be to thee, thou wicked dame !

My Mary's prayers and accents mild
Might well have rendered vengeance lame—

This hand could ne'er have slain my child !

“ But thou, in frenzied fatal hour,

Reft the sweet life thou gavest away,
And crushed to earth the fairest flower
That ever breathed the breeze of day.

“ My all is lost, my hope is fled,

The sword shall ne'er be drawn for me ;
Unblest, unhonoured my gray head—
My child ! would I had died for thee !”—

The bell tolls o'er a new-made grave ;

The lengthened funeral train is seen
Stemming the Yarrow's silver wave,
And darkening Dryhope holms so green.

When nigh the virgin's fane they drew,
Just by the verge of holy ground,
The Kers and Pringles left the clough,
And hemmed the wondering Scotts around.

Vassal and peasant, seized with dread,
Sped off, and looked not once behind;
And all who came for wine and bread,
Fled like the chaff before the wind.

But all the Scotts together flew,—
For every Scott of name was there,—
In sullen mood their weapons drew,
And back to back for fight prepare.

Rough was the onset—boast, nor threat,
Nor word, was heard from friend or foe;
At once began the work of fate,
With perilous thrust and deadly blow.

O but the Harden lads were true,
And bore them bravely in the broil !
The doughty laird of wild Buccleugh
Raged like a lion in the toil.

Young Raeburn tilted gallantly ;
But Ralph of Gilmanscleugh was slain,
Philip and Hugh of Baillilee,
And William laird of Deloraine.

But Francis, Lord of Thirlestane,
To all the gallant name a soil,
While blood of kinsmen fell like rain,
Crept underneath a braken coil.

Old Tushilaw, with sword in hand,
And heart to fiercest woes a prey,
Seemed courting every foeman's brand,
And fought in hottest of the fray.

In vain the gallant kinsmen stood

Wedged in a firm and bristled ring ;

Their funeral weeds are bathed in blood,

No corslets round their bosoms cling.

Against the lance and helmed file

Their courage, might, and skill were vain ;

Short was the conflict, short the while

Ere all the Scotts were bound or slain.

When first the hostile band upsprung,

The body in the church was laid,

Where vows were made, and requiems sung,

By matron, monk, and weeping maid.

Lord Pringle came—before his eye

The monks and maidens kneeled in fear ;

But Lady Tushilaw stood bye,

And pointed to her Mary's bier !

“Thou lord of guile and malice keen,
What boots this doleful work to thee !
Could Scotland such a pair have seen
As Mary Scott and Torwoodlee ?”—

Lord Pringle came, no word he spake,
Nor owned the pangs his bosom knew ;
But his full heart was like to break
In every throb his bosom drew.

“O I had weened with fondest heart—
Woe to the guileful friend who lied !—
This day should join us ne’er to part,
This day that I should win my bride !

“But I will see that face so meek,
Cold, pale, and lifeless though it be ;
And I will kiss that comely cheek,
Once sweeter than the rose to me.”—

With trembling hand he raised the lid,
Sweet was the perfume round that flew ;
For there were strewed the roses red,
And every flower the forest knew.

He drew the fair lawn from her face,
'Twas decked with many a costly wreath ;
And still it wore a soothing grace
Even in the chill abodes of death.

And aye he prest the cheek so white,
And aye he kissed the lips beloved,
Till pitying maidens wept outright,
And even the frigid monks were moved.

Why starts Lord Pringle to his knee ?
Why bend his eyes with watchful strain ?
The maidens shriek his mien to see ;
The startled priests enquire in vain !

Was that a sob, an earthly sigh,
That heaved the flowers so lightly shed ?
'Twas but the wind that wandered bye,
And kissed the bosom of the dead !

Are these the glowing tints of life
O'er Mary's cheek that come and fly ?
Ah, no ! the red flowers round are rife,
The rosebud flings its softened dye.

Why grows the gazer's sight so dim ?
Stay, dear illusion, still beguile !
Thou art worth crowns and worlds to him—
Last, dear illusion, last a while !

Short was thy sway, frenzied and short,
For ever fell the veil on thee ;
Thy startling form of fears the sport,
Vanished in sweet reality !

'Tis past ! and darkly stand revealed

A mother's cares and purpose deep :

That kiss, the last adieu that sealed,

Waked Mary from her death-like sleep !

Slowly she raised her form of grace,

Her eyes no ray conceptive flung ;

And O, her mild, her languid face,

Was like a flower too early sprung !

“ O I lie sick and weary here,

My heart is bound in moveless chain ;

Another cup, my mother dear,

I cannot sleep though I would fain !”—

She drank the wine with calm delay,

She drank the wine with pause and sigh :

Slowly, as wakes the dawning day,

Dawned long-lost thought in Mary's eye.

She looked at pall, she looked at bier,
At altar, shrine, and rosary ;
She saw her lady mother near,
And at her side brave Torwoodlee !

'Twas all a dream, nor boded good,
A phantom of the fevered brain !
She laid her down in moaning mood,
To sooth her woes in sleep again.

Needs not to paint that joyful hour,
The nuptial vow, the bridal glee,
How Mary Scott, the Forest flower,
Was borne a bride to Torwoodlee.

Needs not to say, how warriors prayed
When Mary glided from the dome ;
They thought the Virgin's holy shade
In likeness of the dead had come.

Diamond and ruby rayed her waist,
And twinkled round her brow so fair ;
She wore more gold upon her breast
Than would have bought the hills of Yair.

A foot so light, a form so meet,
Ne'er trode Saint Mary's lonely lea ;
A bride so gay, a face so sweet,
The Yarrow braes shall never see.

Old Tushilaw deigned not to smile,
No grateful word his tongue could say,
He took one kiss, blest her the while,
Wiped his dark eye, and turned away.

The Scotts were freed, and peace restored ;
Each Scott, each Ker, each Pringle swore,
Swore by his name, and by his sword,
To be firm friends for evermore.

Lord Pringle's hills were stocked anew,
Drove after drove came nightly free ;
But many a Border Baron knew
Whence came the dower to Torwoodlee,

Scarce had the closing measure rung,
When from the ring the minstrel sprung,
And his gilt harp, of flowery frame,
Left ready for the next that came.
Loud were the plaudits,—all the fair
Their eyes turned to the royal chair :
They looked again,—no bard was there !
But whisper, smile, and question ran,
Around the ring anent the man ;
While all the nobles of the south
Lauded the generous stranger youth.

The next was bred on southern shore,
Beneath the mists of Lammermore ;

And long, by Nith and crystal Tweed,
Had taught the Border youth to read.
The strains of Greece, the bard of Troy,
Were all his theme, and all his joy.

Well toned his voice of wars to sing ;
His hair was dark as raven's wing ;
His eye an intellectual lance,
No heart could bear its searching glance :
But every bard to him was dear ;
His heart was kind, his soul sincere.

When first of royal wake he heard,
Forthwith it chained his sole regard :
It was his thought, his hourly theme,
His morning prayer, his midnight dream.
Knights, dames, and squires of each degree,
He deemed as fond of songs as he,
And talked of them continually.
But when he heard the Highland strain,
Scarce could his breast his soul contain ;

'Twas all unequalled, and would make
Immortal bards ! immortal wake !
About Dunedin streets he ran,
Each knight he met, each maid, each man,
In field, in alley, tower, or hall,
The wake was first, the wake was all.

Alike to him the south or north,
So high he held the minstrel worth,
So high his ardent mind was wrought,
Once of himself he scarcely thought.

Dear to his heart the strain sublime,
The strain admired in ancient time ;
And, of his minstrel honours proud,
He strung his harp too high, too loud.

King Edward's Dream.

THE FIFTEENTH BARD'S SONG.

The heath-cock had whirred at the break of the morn,
The moon of her tassels of silver was shorn,
When hoary King Edward lay tossing in ire,
His blood in a ferment, his bosom on fire ;
His battle-files, stretched o'er the valley, were still
As Eden's pine forests that darkened the hill.

He slept—but his visions were loathly and grim :
How quivered his lip ! and how quaked every limb !
His dull moving eye showed how troubled his rest,
And deep were the throbs of his labouring breast.

He saw the Scot's banner red streaming on high ;
The fierce Scottish warriors determined and nigh ;
Their columns of steel, and, bright gleaming before,
The lance, the broad target, and Highland claymore.

And, lo ! at their head, in stern glory appeared
That hero of heroes so hated and feared ;
'Twas the exile of Rachrin that led the array,
And Wallace's spirit was pointing the way :
His eye was a torch, beaming ruin and wrath,
And graved on his helmet was—*Vengeance or Death !*

In far Ethiopia's desert domain,
Where whirlwinds new mountains up-pile on the plain,
Their crested brown billows, fierce curling on high,
O'ershadow the sun, and are tossed to the sky ;
But, meeting each other, they burst and recoil,
Mix, thunder, and sink, with a reeling turmoil :
As dreadful the onset that Edward beheld,
As fast his brave legions were heaped on the field.

The plaided blue Highlander, swift as the wind,
Spread terror before him, and ruin behind.
Thick clouds of blood-vapour brood over the slain,
And Pembroke and Howard are stretched on the plain.

The chieftain he hated, all covered with blood,
Still nearer and nearer approached where he stood ;
He could not retreat, and no succour was near—
“ Die, scorpion !” he cried, and pursued his career.
The king felt the iron retreat from the wound,
No hand to uphold him, he sunk on the ground :
His spirit escaped on the wings of the wind,
Left terror, confusion, and carnage behind,
Till on the green Pentland he thought he sat lone,
And pondered on troubles and times that were gone.

He looked over the meadow, broad river, and downe,
From Ochel's fair mountains to Lammermore brown ;
He still found his heart and desires were the same ;
He wished to leave Scotland nor sceptre nor name.

He thought, as he lay on the green mountain thyme,
A spirit approached him in manner sublime.
At first she appeared like a streamer of light,
But still as she neared she was formed to his sight.
Her robe was the blue silken veil of the sky,
The drop of the amethyst deepened its dye ;

Her crown was a helmet, emblazoned with pearl ;
Her mantle the sunbeam, her bracelets the beryl ;
Her hands and her feet like the bright burning levin ;
Her face was the face of an angel from heaven :
Around her the winds and the echoes grew still,
And rainbows were formed in the cloud of the hill.

Like music that floats o'er the soft heaving deep,
When twilight has lulled all the breezes asleep,
The wild fairy airs in our forests that rung,
Or hymn of the sky by a seraph when sung ;
So sweet were the tones on the fancy that broke,
When the Guardian of Scotland's proud mountains thus
spoke :—

“ What boots, mighty Edward, thy victories won ?
'Tis over ; thy sand of existence is run ;
Thy laurels are faded, dispersed in the blast ;
Thy soul from the bar of Omnipotence cast,
To wander bewildered o'er mountain and plain,
O'er lands thou hast steeped with the blood of the slain.

“ I heard of thy guerdon, I heard it on high :

Thou’rt doomed on these mountains to linger and lie,

The mark of the tempest, the sport of the wind,

The tempest of conscience, the storm of the mind,

Till people thou’st hated, and sworn to subdue,

Triumphant from bondage shall burst in thy view,

Their sceptre and liberty bravely regain,

And climb to renown over mountains of slain.

“ I thought (and I joined my endeavours to thine,)

The time was arrived when the two should combine ;

For ’tis known that they will ’mong the hosts of the sky,

And we thought that blest æra of concord was nigh,

But ages unborn yet shall flit on the wing,

And Scotland to England ere then give a king ;

A father to monarchs, whose flourishing sway

The ocean and ends of the earth shall obey.

“ See yon little hamlet o’ershadowed with smoke,

See yon hoary battlement throned on the rock,

Even there shall a city in splendour break forth,

The haughty Dunedin, the Queen of the North ;

There learning shall flourish, and liberty smile,
The awe of the world, and the pride of the isle.

“ But thy lonely spirit shall roam in dismay ;
And weep o’er thy labours so soon to decay.
In yon western plain, where thy power overthrew
The bulwarks of Caledon, valiant and few ;
Where beamed the red faulchion of ravage and wrath ;
Where tyranny, horsed on the dragons of death,
Rode ruthless through blood of the honoured and just.
When Græme and brave Stuart lay bleeding in dust,
The wailings of liberty pierced the sky ;
Th’ Everlasting, in pity, averted his eye !

“ Even there shall the power of thy nations combined,
Proud England, green Erin, and Normandy joined,
Exulting in numbers, and dreadful array,
Led on by Carnarvon, to Scotland away,
As thick as the snow-flakes that pour from the pole,
Or silver-maned waves on the ocean that roll.
A handful of heroes, all desperate driven,
Impelled by the might and the vengeance of heaven ;

By them shall his legions be all overborne,
And melt from the field like the mist of the morn.
The Thistle shall rear her rough front to the sky,
And the Rose and the Shamrock at Carron shall die.

“How couldst thou imagine those spirits of flame
Would stoop to oppression, to slavery, and shame!
Ah! never; the lion may couch to thy sway,
The mighty leviathan bend and obey;
But the Scots, round their king and broad banner unfurled,
Their mountains will keep against thee and the world.”

King Edward awoke with a groan and a start,
The vision was vanished, but not from his heart!
His courage was high, but his vigour was gone;
He cursed the Scotch nation, and bade them lead on.
His legions moved on like a cloud of the west;
But fierce was the fever that boiled in his breast.
On sand of the Solway they rested his bed,
Where the soul of the king and the warrior fled!
He heard not the sound of the evening curfew;
But the whisper that died on his tongue was—“Subdue!”

The bard had sung so bold and high,
While patriot fire flashed from his eye,
That ere King Edward won to rest,
Or sheet was spread above his breast,
The harp-strings jarred in wild mistone ;
The minstrel throbbed, his voice was gone.
Upon his harp he leaned his head,
And softly from the ring was led.

The next was from a western vale,
Where Nith winds slowly down the dale ;
Where play the waves o'er golden grain,
Like mimic billows of the main.
Of the old elm his harp was made,
That bent o'er Cluden's loneliest shade :
No gilded sculpture round her flamed,
For his own hand that harp had framed,
In stolen hours, when, labour done,
He strayed to view the parting sun.
O when the toy to him so fair,
Began to form beneath his care,

How danced his youthful heart with joy !
How constant grew the dear employ !
The sun would chamber in the Ken ;
The red star rise o'er Locherben ;
The solemn moon, in sickly hue,
Waked from her eastern couch of dew,
Would half way gain the vault on high,
Bathe in the Nith, slow stealing by,
And still the bard his task would ply.

When his first notes, from covert grey,
Arrested maiden on her way ;
When ceased the reaper's evening tale,
And paused the shepherd of the dale,—
Bootless all higher worldly bliss,
To crown our minstrel's happiness !
What all the joys by fortune given,
To cloyless song, the gift of heaven ?

That harp could make the matron stare,
Bristle the peasant's hoary hair,

Make patriot-breasts with ardour glow,
 And warrior pant to meet the foe ;
 And long by Nith the maidens young
 Shall chaunt the strains their minstrel sung ;
 At ewe-bught, or at evening fold,
 When resting on the daisied wold,
 Combing their locks of waving gold,
 Oft the fair group enrapt, shall name
 Their lost, their darling Cunninghame ;
 His was a song beloved in youth,—
 A tale of weir—a tale of truth,

Dumlanrig.

THE SIXTEENTH BARD'S SONG.

Who's he stands at Dumlanrig's gate ?
 Who raps so loud, and raps so late ?
 Nor warder's threat, nor porter's growl,
 Question, nor watch-dog's angry howl,
 He once regards, but rap and call,
 Thundering alter nate, shake the wall.

The captive, stretched in dungeon deep,
Waked from his painful visioned sleep ;
His meagre form from pavement raised,
And listened to the sounds amazed :
Both bayle and keep rang with the din,
And Douglas heard the noise within.

“ Ho ! rise, Dumlanrig ! all's at stake !
Ho ! rise, Dumlanrig ! Douglas, wake !—
Blow, warder—blow thy warning shrill,
Light up the beacon on the hill,
For round thee reaves thy ruthless foe.—
Arise, Dumlanrig ! Douglas, ho !”

His fur-cloak round him Douglas threw,
And to the crennel eager flew.
“ What news ? what news ? thou stalwart groom,
Who thus, in midnight's deepest gloom,
Bring'st to my gate the loud alarm
Of foray wide and country harm ?

What are thy dangers ? what thy fears ?

Say out thy message, Douglas hears."

" Haste, Douglas ! Douglas, arm with speed,
And mount thy fleetest battle steed ;
For Lennox, with the southern host,
Whom thou hast baulked and curbed the most,
Like locusts from the Solway blown,
Are spread upon thy mountains brown ;
Broke from their camp in search of prey,
They drive thy flocks and herds away ;
Roused by revenge, and hunger keen,
They've swept the hills of fair Dalveen ;
Nor left thee bullock, goat, or steer,
On all the holms of Durisdeer.

" One troop came to my father's hall ;
They burnt our tower,—they took our all.
My dear, my only sister May,
By force the ruffians bore away ;

Nor kid, nor lamb, bleats in the glen,
Around all lonely Locherben !

“ My twenty men, I have no moe,
Eager to cross the roaming foe,
Well arm'd with hauberk and broad sword,
Keep ward at Cample's rugged ford.
Before they bear their prey across,
Some Southrons shall their helmets lose,
If not the heads those helmets shield,—
O, haste thee, Douglas, to the field !”—
With that his horse around he drew,
And down the path like lightning flew.

“ Arm,” cried the Douglas, “ one and all !”
And vanished from the echoing wall.
“ Arm !” was the word ; along it ran
Through manor, bayle, and barbican ;
And clank and clatter burst at once
From every loop of hall and sconce.

With whoop of groom, and warder's call,
And prancing steeds, 'twas hurry all.

At first, like thunder's distant tone,
The rattling din came rolling on,
Echoed Dumlanrig woods around ;
Louder and louder swelled the sound,
Till like the sheeted flame of wonder,
That rends the shoals of heaven asunder.

When first the word, " To arms !" was given,
Glowed all the eastern porch of heaven ;
A wreathy cloud of orient brown,
Had heralded the rising moon,
Whose verge was like a silver bow,
Bending o'er Ganna's lofty brow ;
And ere above the mountain blue
Her wasted orb was rolled in view,
A thousand men, in armour sheen,
Stood ranked upon Dumlanrig green.

The Nith they stemmed in firm array ;
For Cample-ford they bent their way.
Than Douglas and his men that night,
Never saw yeomen nobler sight ;
Mounted on tall curvetting steed,
He rode undaunted at their head ;
His shadow on the water still,
Like giant on a moving hill.
The ghastly bull's-head scowled on high,
Emblem of death to foemen's eye ;
And bloody hearts on streamers pale,
Waved wildly in the midnight gale.

O, haste thee, Douglas ! haste and ride !
Thy kinsmen's corpses stem the tide !
What red, what dauntless youth is he,
Who stands in Cample to the knee ;
Whose arm of steel, and weapon good,
Still dyes the stream with Southern blood,
While round him fall his faithful men ?
'Tis Morison of Locherben.

O, haste thee, Douglas, to the fray,
Ere won be that important way !
The Southron's countless prey, within
The dreadful coils of Crighup linn,
No passage from the moor can find,—
The wood below, the gulf behind :
One ford there is, and one alone,
And in that ford stands Morison.
Who passes there, or man or beast,
Must make their passage o'er his breast,
And over heaps of mangled dead,
That dam red Cample from its bed.
His sister's cries his soul alarm,
And add new vigour to his arm.
His twenty men are waned to ten.
O, haste to dauntless Locherben !

The Southrons, baulked, impatient turn,
And crowd once more the fatal bourn.
All desperate grew the work of death,
No yielding but with yielding breath;

Even still lay every death-struck man,
For footing to the furious van.
The little band was seized with dread,
Behind their rampart of the dead :
Power from their arms began to fly,
And hope within their breasts to die,
When loud they heard the cheering word
Of—" Douglas ! Douglas !" cross the ford ;
Then turned the Southron swift as wind,
For fierce the battle raged behind.

O, stay, brave Morison ! O, stay !
Guard but that pass till break of day ;
Thy flocks, thy sister to retrieve,
That task to doughty Douglas leave :
Let not thine ardour all betray,—
Thy might is spent—brave warrior, stay.

O, for the lyre of heaven, that rung
When Linden's lofty hymn was sung

Or his, who from the height beheld
The reeling strife of Flodden field !
Then far on wing of genius borne
Should ring the wonders of that morn :
Morn !—ah ! how many a warrior bold
That morn was never to behold !
When rival rank to rank drew nigh,
When eye was fixed on foeman's eye,
When lowered was lance, and bent was bow,
And faulchion clenched to strike the blow,
No breath was heard, nor clank of mail,
Each face with rage grew deadly pale.
Trembled the moon's reluctant ray ;
The breeze of heaven sunk soft away.

So furious was that onset's shock,
Destruction's gates at once unlock :
'Twas like the earthquake's hollow groan,
When towers and towns are overthrown :
'Twas like the river's midnight crush,
When snows dissolve, and torrents rush ;

When fields of ice, in rude array,
Obstruct its own resistless way :
'Twas like the whirlwind's rending sweep :
'Twas like the tempest of the deep,
Where Corrybraken's surges driven,
Meet, mount, and lash the breast of heaven

'Twas foot to foot, and brand to brand ;
Oft hilt to hilt, and hand to hand ;
Oft gallant foemen, woe to tell,
Dead in each other's bosoms fell !
The horsemen met with might and main,
Then reeled, and wheeled, and met again.
A thousand spears on hawberks bang ;
A thousand swords on helmets clang.
Where might was with the feebler blent,
Still there the line of battle bent ;
As oft recoiled from flank assail,
While blows fell thick as rattling hail.
Nature stood mute that fateful hour,
All save the ranks on Cample-moor,

And mountain goats that left their den,
And bleating fled to Garroch glen.

Dumlanrig, aye in battle keen,
The foremost in the broil was seen :
Woe to the warrior dared withstand
The progress of his deadly brand !
He sat so firm, he reined so well,
Whole ranks before his charger fell.
A valiant youth kept by his side,
With crest and armour crimson-dyed ;
Charged still with him the yielding foe,
And seconded his every blow.
The Douglas wondered whence he came,
And asked his lineage and his name.
'Twas he who kept the narrow way,
Who raised at first the battle-fray,
And roused Dumlanrig and his men,—
Brave Morison of Locherben.

“ My chief,” he said, “ forgive my fear
For one than life to me more dear ;

But late I heard my sister cry,
'Dumlanrig, now thy weapon ply.'—
Her guard waits in yon hollow lea,
Beneath the shade of spreading tree."—

Dumlanrig's eye with ardour shone;
"Follow!" he cried, and spurred him on.
A close gazoon the horsemen made,
Douglas and Morison the head,
And through the ranks impetuous bore,
By dint of lance and broad claymore,
Mid shouts, and groans of parting life,
For hard and doubtful was the strife.
Behind a knight, firm belted on,
They found the fair May Morison.
But why, through all Dumlanrig's train,
Search her bright eyes, and search in vain?
A stranger mounts her on his steed;
Brave Morison, where art thou fled?
The drivers for their booty feared,
And, soon as Cample-ford was cleared,

To work they fell, and forced away
Across the stream their mighty prey.
The bleating flocks in terror ran
Across the bloody breast of man ;
Even the dull cattle gazed with dread,
And, lowing, foundered o'er the dead.

The Southrons still the fight maintain ;
Though broke, they closed and fought again,
Till shouting drivers gave the word,
That all the flocks had cleared the ford ;
Then to that pass the bands retire,
And safely braved Dumlanrig's ire.
Rashly he tried, and tried in vain,
That steep, that fatal path to gain ;
Madly prolonged th' unequal fray,
And lost his men, and lost the day.
Amid the battle's fiercest shock,
Three spears were on his bosom broke,
Then forced in flight to seek remede.
Had it not been his noble steed,

That swift away his master bore,
He ne'er had seen Dumlanrig more.

The day-beam, from his moonlight sleep,
O'er Queensberry began to peep,
Kneeled drowsy on the mountain fern,
At length rose tiptoe on the cairn,
Embracing, in his bosom pale,
The stars, the moon, and shadowy dale.
Then what a scene appall'd the view,
On Cample-moor, as dawning grew!
Along the purple heather spread,
Lay mixed the dying and the dead;
Stern foemen there from quarrel cease,
Who ne'er before had met in peace.
Two kinsmen good the Douglas lost,
And full three hundred of his host;
With one by him lamented most,
The flower of all the Nithsdale men,
Young Morison of Locherben.

The Southrons did no foot pursue,
Nor seek the conflict to renew.
They knew not at the rising sun
What mischief they'd to Douglas done,
But to the south pursued their way,
Glad to escape with such a prey.

Brave Douglas, where thy pride of weir ?
How stinted in thy bold career !
Woe, that the Lowther eagle's look
Should shrink before the Lowland rook !
Woe, that the lordly lion's paw
Of ravening wolves should sink in awe !
But doubly woe, the purple heart
Should tarnished from the field depart !

Was it the loss of kinsmen dear,
Or crusted scratch of Southron spear ?
Was it thy dumb, thy sullen host,
Thy glory by misconduct lost ?

Or thy proud bosom, swelling high,
Made the round tear roll in thine eye?
Ah! no; thy heart was doomed to prove
The sharper pang of slighted love.

What vision lingers on the heath,
Flitting across the field of death;
Its gliding motion, smooth and still
As vapour on the twilight hill,
Or the last ray of falling even
Shed through the parting clouds of heaven?

Is it a sprite that roams forlorn?
Or angel from the bowers of morn,
Come down a tear of heaven to shed,
In pity o'er the valiant dead?
No vain, no fleeting phantom this!
No vision from the bowers of bliss!
Its radiant eye, and stately tread,
Bespeak some beauteous mountain maid;

No rose of Eden's bosom meek,
Could match that maiden's moistened cheek;
No drifted wreath of morning snow,
The whiteness of her lofty brow;
Nor gem of India's purest dye,
The lustre of her eagle eye.

When beauty, Eden's bowers within,
First stretched the arm to deeds of sin;
When passion burned, and prudence slept,
The pitying angels bent and wept.
But tears more soft were never shed,
No, not when angels bowed the head,
A sigh more mild did never breathe
O'er human nature whelmed in death,
Nor woe and dignity combine
In face so lovely, so benign,
As Douglas saw that dismal hour,
Bent o'er a corse on Cample-moor;
A lady o'er her shield, her trust,
A brave, an only brother's dust.

What heart of man unmoved can lie,
When plays the smile in beauty's eye?
Or when a form of grace and love
To music's notes can lightly move?
Yes; there are hearts unmoved can see
The smile, the ring, the revelry;
But heart of warrior ne'er could bear
The beam of beauty's crystal tear.
Well was that morn the maxim proved,—
The Douglas saw, the Douglas loved.

“ O, cease thy tears, my lovely May,
Sweet floweret of the banks of Ae,
His soul thou never canst recal;
He fell as warrior wont to fall.
Deep, deep the loss we both bewail:
But that deep loss to countervail,
Far as the day-flight of the hern,
From Locherben to green Glencairn,
From where the Shinnel torrents pour
To the lone vales of Crawford-moor,

The fairy links of Tweed and Lyne,
All, all the Douglas has, is thine,
And Douglas too ; whate'er betide,
Straight thou shalt be Dumlanrig's bride."—

“ What ! mighty chief, a bride to thee !
No, by yon heaven's High Majesty,
Sooner I'll beg, forlorn and poor,
Bent at thy meanest vassal's door,
Than look thy splendid halls within,
Thou deer, wrapt in a lion's skin !

“ Here lies the kindest, bravest man ;
There lie thy kinsmen, pale and wan ;
What boots thy boasted mountains green ?
Nor flock, nor herd, can there be seen ;
All driven before thy vaunting foe
To ruthless slaughter, bleat and low,
Whilst thou,—shame on thy dastard head !—
A wooing com'st amidst the dead.

“ O, that this feeble maiden hand
Could bend the bow, or wield the brand !
If yeomen mustered in my hall,
Or trooped obsequious at my call,
My country's honour I'd restore,
And shame thy face for evermore.
Go, first thy flocks and herds regain ;
Revenge thy friends in battle slain ;
Thy wounded honour heal ; that done,
Douglas may ask May Morison.”

Dumlanrig's blood to's bosom rushed,
His manly cheek like crimson blushed.
He called three yeomen to his side :
“ Haste, gallant warriors, haste and ride !
Warn Lindsay on the banks of Daur,
The fierce M'Turk and Lochinvaur ;
Tell them that Lennox flies amain ;
That Maxwell and Glencairn are ta'en ;
Kilpatrick with the spoiler rides ;
The Johnston flies, and Jardine hides :

That I alone am left to fight,
For country's cause and sovereign's right.
My friends are fallen,—my warriors toiled,—
My towns are burnt,—my vassals spoiled :
Yet say—before to-morrow's sun
With amber tips the mountain dun,
Either that host of ruthless thieves
I'll scatter like the forest leaves,
Or my wrung heart shall cease to play,
And my right hand the sword to sway.
At Blackwood I'll their coming bide :
Haste, gallant warriors, haste and ride !”—

He spoke :—each yeoman bent his eye,
And forward stooped in act to fly ;
No plea was urged, no short demur ;
Each heel was turned to strike the spur.

As ever ye saw the red deer's brood,
From covert sprung, traverse the wood ;

Or heath-fowl beat the mountain wind,
And leave the fowler fixt behind ;
As ever ye saw three arrows spring
At once from yew-bow's twanging string,—
So flew the messengers of death,
And, lessening, vanished on the heath.

The Douglas bade his troops with speed
Prepare due honours for the dead,
And meet well armed at evening still
On the green cone of Blackford-hill.
There came M'Turk to aid the war,
With troops from Shinnel glens and Scaur ;
Fierce Gordon with the clans of Ken,
And Lindsay with his Crawford men ;
Old Morton, too, forlorn and gray,
Whose son had fallen at break of day.

If troops on earth may e'er withstand
An onset made by Scottish brand,

Then lawless rapine sways the throng,
And conscience whispers—"This is wrong:"
But should a foe, whate'er his might,
To Scotia's dust dispute our right,
Or dare on native mountain claim
The poorest atom boasts our name,
Though high that warrior's banners soar,
Let him beware the broad claymore.

Scotland! thy honours long have stood,
Though rudely cropt, though rolled in blood,
Yet, bathed in warm and purple dew,
More glorious o'er the ruin grew.
Long flourished thy paternal line;
Arabia's lineage stoops to thine.

Dumlanrig found his foes secure,
Stretched on the ridge of Locher-moor.
The hum that wandered from their host,
Far on the midnight breeze was lost.

No deafening drum, no bugle's swell,
No watch-word past from centinel,
No slight vibration stirred the air
To warn the Scot a foe was there,
Save bleat of flocks that wandered slow,
And oxen's deep and sullen low.

What horrors o'er the warrior hang !
What vultures watch his soul to fang !
What toils ! what snares !—he hies him on
Where lightnings flash, and thunders groan ;
Where havock strikes whole legions low,
And death's red billows murmuring flow ;
Yet still he fumes and flounders on,
Till crushed the moth—its mem'ry gone !

Why should the bard, who loves to mourn
His maiden's scorn by mountain bourn,
Or pour his wild harp's fairy tone
From sounding cliff or green-wood lone,

Of slaughtered foemen proudly tell,
On deeds of death and horror dwell?

Dread was Dumlanrig's martial ire,
Fierce on the foe he rushed like fire.
Lindsay of Crawford, known to fame,
That night first gained a hero's name.
M'Turk stood deep in Southron gore,
And legions down before him bore;
And Gordon, with his Galloway crew,
O'er floundering ranks resistless flew.
Short was the strife!—they fled as fast
As chaff before the northern blast.

Dumlanrig's flocks were not a few,
And well their worth Dumlanrig knew;
But ne'er so proud was he before
Of his broad bounds and countless store,
As when they strung up Nithsdale plain,
Well guarded to their hills again.

With Douglas' name the green-woods rung,
As battle-songs his warriors sung.
The banners streamed in double row,
The heart above, the rose below.
His visage glowed, his pulse beat high,
And gladness sparkled in his eye :
For why, he knew the lovely May,
Who in Kilpatrick's castle lay,
With joy his proud return would view,
And her impetuous censure rue.

Well judged he :—Why should haughty chief
Intrude himself on lady's grief,
As if his right, as nought but he
Were worthy her anxiety.
No, warrior : keep thy distance due ;
Beauty is proud and jealous too.
If fair and young thy maiden be,
Know she knew that ere told by thee.
Be kind, be gentle, heave the sigh,
And blush before her piercing eye :

For though thou'rt noble, brave, and young,
If rough thy mien and rude thy tongue,
Though proudly towers thy trophied pile,
Hope not for beauty's yielding smile.
Oh ! well it suits the brave and high,
Gentle to prove in lady's eye.

Dumlanrig found his lovely flower
Fair as the sun-beam o'er the shower,
Gentle as zephyr of the plain,
Sweet as the rose-bud after rain :
Gone all her scorn and maiden pride,
She blushed Dumlanrig's lovely bride.

James of Dumlanrig, though thy name
Scarce vibrates in the ear of fame,
But for thy might and valour keen,
That gallant house had never been.

Blest be thy mem'ry, gallant man !
Oft flashed thy broad sword in the van ;

When stern rebellion reared the brand,
And stained the laurels of our land,
No knight unshaken stood like thee
In right of injured majesty :
Ev'n yet, o'er thy forgotten bier,
A minstrel drops the burning tear,
And strikes his wild harp's boldest string,
Thy honours on the breeze to fling,
That mountains once thine own may know
From whom the Queensberry honours flow.

Fair be thy mem'ry, gallant knight !
So true in love, so brave in fight !
Though o'er thy children's princely urn
The sculpture towers, and seraphs mourn,
O'er thy green grave shall wave the yew,
And heaven distil its earliest dew.

When ceased the bard's protracted song,
Circled a smile the fair among ;

The song was free, and soft its fall,
So soothing, yet so bold withal,
They loved it well, yet, sooth to say,
Too long, too varied was the lay.

'Twas now the witching time of night,
When reason strays, and forms that fright,
Are shadowed on the palsied sight ;
When fancy moulds upon the mind
Light visions on the passing wind,
And woos, with faltering tongue and sigh,
The shades o'er memory's wilds that fly ;
And much the circle longed to hear
Of gliding ghost, or gifted seer,
That in that still and solemn hour
Might stretch imagination's power,
And restless fancy revel free
In painful, pleasing luxury.
Just as the battle-tale was done,
The watchman called the hour of one.

Lucky the hour for him who came,
Lucky the wish of every dame,
The bard who rose at herald's call
Was wont to sing in Highland hall,
Where the wild chieftain of M'Lean
Upheld his dark Hebridian reign;
Where floated crane and clamorous gull
Above the misty shores of Mull;
And evermore the billows rave
Round many a saint and sovereign's grave.
There round Columba's ruins gray
The shades of monks are wont to stray,
And slender forms of nuns, that weep
In moonlight by the murmuring deep,
O'er early loves and passions crost,
And being's end for ever lost.
No earthly form their names to save,
No stem to flourish o'er their grave,
No blood of theirs beyond the shrine
To nurse the human soul divine,

Still cherish youth by time unworn,
And flow in ages yet unborn.
While mind, surviving evermore,
Unbodied seeks that lonely shore.

In that wild land our minstrel bred,
From youth a life of song had led,
Wandering each shore and upland dull
With Allan Bawn, the bard of Mull,
To sing the deeds of old Fingal,
In every cot and Highland hall.

Well knew he every ghost that came
To visit fair Hebridian dame,
Was that of monk or abbot gone,
Who once, in cell of pictured stone,
Of woman thought, and her alone.

Well knew he every female shade
To westland chief that visit paid

In morning pale, or evening dun,
Was that of fair lamenting nun,
Who once, in cloistered home forlorn,
Languished for joys in youth forsworn ;
And oft himself had seen them glide
At dawning from his own bed-side.

Forth stepped he with uncourtly bow,
The heron plume waved o'er his brow,
His garb was blent with varied shade,
And round him flowed his Highland plaid.
But woe to Southland dame and knight
In minstrel's tale who took delight.
Though known the air, the song he sung
Was in the barbarous Highland tongue :
But tartaned chiefs in raptures hear
The strains, the words, to them so dear.

Thus run the bold portentous lay,
As near as Southern tongue can say.

The Abbot M'Kinnon.

THE SEVENTEENTH BARD'S SONG.

M'Kinnon's tall mast salutes the day,
And beckons the breeze in Iona bay;
Plays lightly up in the morning sky,
And nods to the green wave rolling bye;
The anchor upheaves, the sails unfurl,
The pennons of silk in the breezes curl;
But not one monk on holy ground
Knows whither the Abbot M'Kinnon is bound.

Well could that bark o'er the ocean glide,
Though monks and friars alone must guide;
For never man of other degree
On board that sacred ship might be.
On deck M'Kinnon walked soft and slow;
The haulers sung from the gilded prow;
The helmsman turned his brow to the sky,
Upraised his cowl, and upraised his eye,

And away shot the bark on the wing of the wind,
Over billow and bay like an image of mind.

Aloft on the turret the monks appear,
To see where the bark of their abbot would bear ;
They saw her sweep from Iona bay,
And turn her prow to the north away,
Still lessen to view in the hazy screen,
And vanish amid the islands green.
Then they turned their eyes to the female dome,
And thought of the nuns till the abbot came home.

Three times the night with aspect dull
Came stealing o'er the moors of Mull ;
Three times the sea-gull left the deep,
To doze on the knob of the dizzy steep,
By the sound of the ocean lull'd to sleep ;
And still the watch-lights sailors see
On the top of the spire, and the top of Dun-ye ;
And the laugh rings through the sacred dome,
For still the abbot is not come home.

But the wolf that nightly swam the sound,
From Ross's rude impervious bound,
On the ravenous burrowing race to feed,
That loved to haunt the home of the dead,
To him Saint Columb had left in trust,
To guard the bones of the royal and just,
Of saints and of kings the sacred dust ;
The savage was scared from his charnel of death,
And swam to his home in hunger and wrath,
For he momentarily saw, through the night so dun,
The cowering monk, and the veiled nun,
Whispering, sighing, and stealing away
By cross dark alley, and portal gray.
O, wise was the founder, and well said he,
“ Where there are women mischief must be.”

No more the watch-fires gleam to the blast,
M'Kinnon and friends arrive at last.
A stranger youth to the isle they brought,
Modest of mien and deep of thought,
In costly sacred robes bedight,
And he lodged with the abbot by day and by night.

His breast was graceful, and round withal,
His leg was taper, his foot was small,
And his tread so light that it flung no sound
On listening ear or vault around.
His eye was the morning's brightest ray,
And his neck like the swan's in Iona bay ;
His teeth the ivory polished new,
And his lip like the morel when glossed with dew,
While under his cowl's embroidered fold
Were seen the curls of waving gold.
This comely youth, of beauty so bright,
Abode with the abbot by day and by night.

When arm in arm they walked the isle,
Young friars would beckon, and monks would
smile ;
But sires, in dread of sins unshriven,
Would shake their heads and look up to heaven,
Afraid the frown of the saint to see,
Who reared their temple amid the sea,

And pledged his soul to guard the dome,
Till virtue should fly her western home.
But now a stranger of hidden degree,
Too fair, too gentle, a man to be,
This stranger of beauty and step so light
Abode with the abbot by day and by night.

The months and the days flew lightly bye,
The monks were kind and the nuns were shy;
But the gray-haired sires, in trembling mood,
Kneel'd at the altar and kissed the rood.

M'Kinnon he dreamed that the saint of the isle
Stood by his side, and with courteous smile
Bade him arise from his guilty sleep,
And pay his respects to the God of the deep,
In temple that north in the main appeared,
Which fire from bowels of ocean had seared,
Which the giant builders of heaven had reared,
To rival in grandeur the stately pile
Himself had upreared in Iona's isle;

For round them rose the mountains of sand,
The fishes had left the coasts of the land,
And so high ran the waves of the angry sea,
They had drizzled the cross on the top of Dun-ye.
The cycle was closed, and the period run,
He had vowed to the sea, he had vowed to the sun,
If in that time rose trouble or pain,
Their homage to pay to the God of the main.
Then he bade him haste and the rites prepare,
Named all the monks should with him fare,
And promised again to see him there.

M'Kinnon awoke from his visioned sleep,
He opened his casement and looked on the deep;
He looked to the mountains, he looked to the
shore,
The vision amazed him and troubled him sore,
He never had heard of the rite before;
But all was so plain, he thought meet to obey,
He durst not decline, and he would not delay.

Uprose the abbot, uprose the morn,
Uprose the sun from the Bèns of Lorn;
And the bark her course to the northward framed,
With all on board whom the saint had named.

The clouds were journeying east the sky,
The wind was low and the swell was high,
And the glossy sea was heaving bright
Like ridges and hills of liquid light;
While far on her lubric bosom were seen
The magic dyes of purple and green.

How joyed the bark her sides to lave!
She leaned to the lee, and she girdled the wave;
Aloft on the stayless verge she hung,
Light on the steep wave veered and swung,
And the crests of the billows before her flung.
Loud murmured the ocean with gulph and with
growl,
The seal swam aloof and the dark sea fowl;

The pye-duck sought the depth of the main,
And rose in the wheel of her wake again;
And behind her, far to the southward, shone
A pathway of snow on the waste alone.

But now the dreadful strand they gain,
Where rose the sacred dome of the main;
Oft had they seen the place before,
And kept aloof from the dismal shore,
But now it rose before their prow,
And what they beheld they did not know.
The tall gray forms, in close-set file,
Upholding the roof of that holy pile;
The sheets of foam and the clouds of spray,
And the groans that rushed from the portals grey,
Appalled their hearts, and drove them away.

They wheeled their bark to the east around,
And moored in basin, by rocks imbound;
Then, awed to silence, they trode the strand
Where furnaced pillars in order stand,

All framed of the liquid burning levin,
And bent like the bow that spans the heaven,
Or upright ranged in horrid array,
With purple of green o'er the darksome gray.

Their path was on wonderous pavement of old,
Its blocks all cast in some giant mould,
Fair hewn and grooved by no mortal hand,
With countermure guarded by sea and by land.
The watcher Bushella frowned over their way,
Enrobed in the sea-baize, and hooded with grey;
The warder that stands by that dome of the deep,
With spray-shower and rainbow, the entrance to
keep.

But when they drew nigh to the chancel of ocean,
And saw her waves rush to their raving devotion,
Astounded and awed to the antes they clung,
And listened the hymns in her temple she sung.
The song of the cliff, when the winter winds blow,
The thunder of heaven, the earthquake below,
Conjoined, like the voice of a maiden would be,
Compared with the anthem there sung by the sea.

The solemn rows in that darksome den,
Were dimly seen like the forms of men,
Like giant monks in ages ago,
Whom the God of the ocean had seared to stone,
And bound in his temple for ever to lean,
In sackcloth of grey and visors of green,
An everlasting worship to keep,
And the big salt tears eternally weep.

So rapid the motion, the whirl and the boil,
So loud was the tumult, so fierce the turmoil,
Appalled from those portals of terror they turn,
On pillar of marble their incense to burn.
Around the holy flame they pray,
Then turning their faces all west away,
On angel pavement each bent his knee,
And sung this hymn to the God of the sea.

The Monks' Hymn.

Thou, who makest the ocean to flow,
Thou, who walkest the channels below ;
To thee, to thee, this incense we heap,
Thou, who knowest not slumber nor sleep,
Great Spirit that movest on the face of the deep !
To thee, to thee, we sing to thee,
God of the western wind, God of the sea.

To thee, who gatherest with thy right hand
The little fishes around our land ;
To thee, who breathest in the bellied sail,
Rul'st the shark and the rolling whale,
Fling'st the sinner to downward grave,
Light'st the gleam on the mane of the wave,
Bid'st the billows thy reign deform,
Laugh'st in the whirlwind, sing'st in the storm,
Or risest like mountain amid the sea,
Where mountain was never, and never will be,

And rear'st thy proud and thy pale chaperoon
Mid walks of the angels and ways of the moon ;
To thee, to thee, this wine we pour,
God of the western wind, God of the shower.

To thee, who bid'st those mountains of brine
Softly sink in the fair moonshine,
And spread'st thy couch of silver light,
To lure to thy bosom the queen of the night,
Who weavest the cloud of the ocean dew,
And the mist that sleeps on her breast so blue ;
When the murmurs die at the base of the hill,
And the shadows lie rocked and slumbering still,
And the Solan's young, and the lines of foam,
Are scarcely heaved on thy peaceful home,
We pour this oil and this wine to thee,
God of the western wind, God of the sea !—
“ Greater yet must the offering be.”

The monks gazed round, the abbot grew wan,
For the closing notes were not sung by man.

They came from the rock, or they came from the
air,

From voice they knew not, and knew not where ;
But it sung with a mournful melody,
“ Greater yet must the offering be.”

In holy dread they past away,
And they walked the ridge of that isle so grey,
And saw the white waves toil and fret,
An hundred fathoms below their feet ;
They looked to the countless isles that lie,
From Barra to Mull, and from Jura to Skye ;
They looked to heaven, they looked to the main,
They looked at all with a silent pain,
As on places they were not to see again.

A little bay lies hid from sight,
O'erhung by cliffs of dreadful height ;

When they drew nigh that airy steep,
They heard a voice rise from the deep,
And that voice was sweet as voice could be,
And they feared it came from the Maid of the Sea.

M'Kinnon lay stretched on the verge of the hill,
And peeped from the height on the bay so still;
And he saw her sit on a weedy stone,
Laving her fair breast, and singing alone;
And aye she sank the wave within,
Till it gurgled around her lovely chin,
Then combed her locks of the pale sea-green,
And aye this song was heard between.

The Mermaid's Song.

Matilda of Skye

Alone may lie,

And list to the wind that whistles by :

Sad may she be,
For deep in the sea,
Deep, deep, deep in the sea,
This night her lover shall sleep with me.
She may turn and hide
From the spirits that glide,
And the ghost that stands at her bed-side ;
But never a kiss the vow shall seal,
Nor warm embrace her bosom feel ;
For far, far down in the floors below,
Moist as this rock-weed, cold as the snow,
With the eel, and the clam, and the pearl of the
deep,
On soft sea-flowers her lover shall sleep,
And long and sound shall his slumber be
In the coral bowers of the deep with me.

The trembling sun, far, far away,
Shall pour on his couch a softened ray,
And his mantle shall wave in the flowing tide,
And the little fishes shall turn aside ;

But the waves and the tides of the sea shall cease,
Ere wakes her love from his bed of peace.
No home !—no kiss !—No, never ! never !
His couch is spread for ever and ever.

The abbot arose in dumb dismay,
They turned and fled from the height away,
For dark and portentous was the day.
When they came in view of their rocking sail,
They saw an old man who sat on the wale ;
His beard was long, and silver grey,
Like the rime that falls at the break of day ;
His locks like wool, and his colour wan,
And he scarcely looked like an earthly man.

They asked his errand, they asked his name,
Whereunto bound, and whence he came ;
But a sullen thoughtful silence he kept,
And turned his face to the sea and wept.

Some gave him welcome, and some gave him scorn,
But the abbot stood pale, with terror o'erborne ;
He tried to be jocund, but trembled the more,
For he thought he had seen the face before.

Away went the ship with her canvas all spread,
So glad to escape from that island of dread ;
And skimmed the blue wave like a streamer of
light,
Till fell the dim veil 'twixt the day and the night.

Then the old man arose and stood up on the
prow,
And fixed his dim eyes on the ocean below ;
And they heard him saying, " Oh, woe is me !
But great as the sin must the sacrifice be."
Oh, mild was his eye, and his manner sublime,
When he looked unto heaven, and said—" Now
is the time."

He looked to the weather, he looked to the lee,
He looked as for something he dreaded to see,

Then stretched his pale hand, and pointed his eye
To a gleam on the verge of the eastern sky.

The monks soon beheld, on the lofty Ben-More,
A sight which they never had seen before,
A belt of blue lightning around it was driven,
And its crown was encircled by morion of heaven;
And they heard a herald that loud did cry,
“ Prepare the way for the Abbot of I ! ”

Then a sound arose, they knew not where,
It came from the sea, or it came from the air,
'Twas louder than tempest that ever blew,
And the sea-fowls screamed, and in terror flew ;
Some ran to the cords, some kneeled at the shrine,
But all the wild elements seemed to combine ;
'Twas just but one moment of stir and commotion,
And down went the ship like a bird of the ocean.

This moment she sailed all stately and fair,
The next nor ship nor shadow was there,

But a boil that arose from the deep below,
A mounting gurgling column of snow ;
It sunk away with a murmuring moan,
The sea is calm, and the sinners are gone.

END OF NIGHT THE THIRD.

CONCLUSION.

CONCLUSION

It is a pleasure to have the opportunity to

conclude this volume with a few words

on the future of the subject.

The first of these is the

importance of the subject in the

present day world.

The second is the

importance of the subject in the

future of the subject.

The third is the

importance of the subject in the

present day world.

CONCLUSION.

FRIEND of the bard ! peace to thy heart,
Long hast thou acted generous part,
Long hast thou courteously in pain
Attended to a feeble strain,
While oft abashed has sunk thine eye,—
Thy task is done, the Wake is bye.

I saw thy fear, I knew it just ;
'Twas not for minstrels long in dust,
But for the fond and venturous swain
Who dared to wake their notes again ;
Yet oft thine eye has spoke delight,
I marked it well, and blest the sight :

No sour disdain, nor manner cold,
Noted contempt for tales of old ;
Oft hast thou at the fancies smiled,
And marvelled at the legends wild.
Thy task is o'er ; peace to thy heart !
For thou hast acted generous part.

'Tis said that thirty bards appeared,
That thirty names were registered,
With whom were titled chiefs combined,
But some are lost, and some declined.
Woe's me, that all my mountain lore
Has been unfit to rescue more !
And that my guideless rustic skill
Has told those ancient tales so ill.

The prize Harp still hung on the wall ;
The bards were warned to leave the hall,
Till courtiers gave the judgment true,
To whom the splendid prize was due.

What curious wight will pass with me,
The anxious motley group to see ;
List their remarks of right and wrong,
Of skilful hand and faulty song,
And drink one glass the bards among ?

There sit the men—behold them there,
Made maidens quake and courtiers stare,
Whose names shall future ages tell ;
What do they seem ? behold them well.
A simpler race you shall not see,
Awkward and vain as men can be ;
Light as the fumes of fervid wine,
Or foam-bells floating on the brine,
The gossamers in air that sail,
Or down that dances in the gale.

Each spoke of others fame and skill
With high applause, but jealous will.
Each song, each strain, he erst had known,
And all had faults except his own :

Plaudits were mixed with meaning jeers,
For all had hopes, and all had fears.

A herald rose the court among,
And named each bard and named his song;
Rizzio was named from royal chair—
“Rizzio!” re-echoed many a fair.
Each song had some that song approved,
And voices gave for bard beloved.
The first division called and done,
Gardyn stood highest just by one.

Queen Mary reddened, wroth was she
Her favourite thus outdone to see,
Reproved her squire in high disdain,
And caused him call the votes again.
Strange though it seem, the truth I say,
Feature of that unyielding day,
Her favourite's voters counted o'er,
Were found much fewer than before.

Glistened her eyes with pungent dew :
She found with whom she had to do.

Again the royal gallery rung
With names of those who second sung,
When, spite of haughty Highland blood,
The Bard of Ettrick upmost stood.

The rest were named who sung so late,
And after long and keen debate,
The specious nobles of the south
Carried the nameless stranger youth ;
Though Highland wrath was at the full,
Contending for the Bard of Mull.

Then did the worst dispute begin,
Which of the *three* the prize should win.
'Twas party all—not minstrel worth,
But honour of the south and north ;
And nought was heard throughout the court,
But taunt, and sneer, and keen retort.

High run the words, and fierce the fume,
And from beneath each nodding plume
Red look was cast that vengeance said,
And palm on broad-sword's hilt was laid,
While Lowland jeer, and Highland mood,
Threatened to end the Wake in blood.

Rose from his seat the Lord of Mar,
Serene in counsel as in war.

"For shame," said he, "contentants all !

This outrage done in royal hall,
Is to our country foul disgrace.

What ! mock our Sovereign to her face !

Whose generous heart and taste refined,
Alike to bard and courtier kind,

This high repast for all designed.

For shame ! your party strife suspend,

And list the counsel of a friend.

"Unmeet it is for you or me

To lessen one of all the three,

Each excellent in his degree ;

But taste, as sapient sages tell,
Varies with climes in which we dwell.

“ Fair emblem of the Border dale,
Is cadence soft and simple tale ;
While stern romantic Highland clime,
Still nourishes the rude sublime.

“ If Border ear may taste the worth
Of the wild pathos of the north,
Or that sublimed by Ossian’s lay,
By forest dark and mountain gray,
By clouds which frowning cliffs deform,
By roaring flood and raving storm,
Enjoy the smooth, the fairy tale,
Or evening song of Teviotdale ;
Then trow you may the tides adjourn,
And nature from her path-way turn ;
The wild-duck drive to mountain tree,
The capperkayle to swim the sea,

The heath-cock to the shelvy shore,
The partridge to the mountain hoar,
And bring the red-eyed ptarmigan
To dwell by the abodes of man.

“ To end this strife, unrulèd and vain,
Let all the three be called again ;
Their skill alternately be tried,
And let the Queen alone decide.
Then hushed be jeer and answer proud,—
He said, and all, consenting, bowed.

When word was brought to bard's retreat,
The group were all in dire debate ;
The Border youth (that stranger wight)
Had quarrelled with the clans outright ;
Had placed their merits out of ken,
Deriding both the songs and men.
'Tis said—but few the charge believes,—
He branded them as fools and thieves.

Certes that war and woe had been,
For gleaming dirks unsheathed were seen,
The Highland minstrels ill could brook
His taunting word and haughty look.

The youth was chafed, and with disdain
Refused to touch his harp again ;
Said he desired no more renown
Than keep those Highland boasters down ;
Now he had seen them quite undone,
The south had two, the north but one ;
But should they bear the prize away,
For that he should not, would not play ;
He cared for no such guerdon mean,
Nor for the harp, nor for the Queen.

His claim withdrawn, the victors twain
Repaired to prove their skill again.

The song that tuneful Gardyn sung
Is still admired by old and young,

And long shall be at evening fold,
While songs are sung or tales are told.
Of stolen delights began the song,
Of love the Carron woods among,
Of lady borne from Carron side
To Barnard towers and halls of pride,
Of jealous lord and doubtful bride,
And ended with Gilmorice' doom
Cut off in manhood's early bloom.
Soft rung the closing notes and slow,
And every heart was steeped in woe.

The harp of Ettrick rung again,
Her bard, intent on fairy strain,
And fairy freak by moonlight shaw,
Sung young Tam Lean of Carterha'.

Queen Mary's harp on high that hung,
And every tone responsive rung,
With gems and gold that dazzling shone,
That harp is to the Highlands gone,

Gardyn is crowned with garlands gay,
And bears the envied prize away.
Long, long that harp, the hills among,
Resounded Ossian's mountain song;
Waked slumbering lyres from every tree
Adown the banks of Don and Dee,
At length was borne, by beauteous bride,
To woo the airs on Garry side.

When full two hundred years had fled,
And all the northern bards were dead,
That costly harp, of wonderous mould,
Defaced of all its gems and gold,
With that which Gardyn erst did play,
Back to Dunedin found its way.

As Mary's hand the victor crowned,
And twined the wreath his temples round,
Loud were the shouts of Highland chief—
The Lowlanders were dumb with grief;

And the poor Bard of Ettrick stood
Like statue pale, in moveless mood;
Like ghost, which oft his eyes had seen
At gloaming in his glens so green.
Queen Mary saw the minstrel's pain,
And bade from bootless grief refrain.

She said a boon to him should fall
Worth all the harps in royal hall;
Of Scottish song a countless store,
Precious remains of minstrel lore,
And cottage, by a silver rill,
Should all reward his rustic skill:
Did other gift his bosom claim,
He needed but that gift to name.

“O, my fair Queen,” the minstrel said,
With faltering voice and hanging head,
“Your cottage keep, and minstrel lore,—
Grant me a harp, I ask no more.

From thy own hand a lyre I crave,
That boon alone my heart can save."

" Well hast thou asked ; and be it known,
I have a harp of old renown
Hath many an ardent wight beguiled ;
'Twas framed by wizard of the wild,
And will not yield one measure bland
Beneath a skillless stranger hand ;
But once her powers by progress found,
O there is magic in the sound !

" When worldly woes oppress thy heart,—
And thou and all must share a part,—
Should scorn be cast from maiden's eye,
Should friendship fail, or fortune fly,
Steal with thy harp to lonely brake,
Her wild, her soothing numbers wake,
And soon corroding cares shall cease,
And passion's host be lulled to peace ;

Angels a gilded screen shall cast,
That cheers the future, veils the past.

“ That harp will make the elves of eve
Their dwelling in the moon-beam leave,
And ope thine eyes by haunted tree
Their glittering tiny forms to see.
The flitting shades that woo the glen
’Twill shape to forms of living men,
To forms on earth no more you see,
Who once were loved, and aye will be ;
And holiest converse you may prove
Of things below and things above.”

“ That is, that is the harp for me !”
Said the rapt bard in ecstasy ;
“ This soothing, this exhaustless store,
Grant me, my Queen, I ask no more.”

O, when the weeping minstrel laid
The relic in his old grey plaid,

When Holyrood he left behind
To gain his hills of mist and wind,
Never was hero of renown,
Or monarch prouder of his crown.
He tript the vale, he climbed the coomb,
The mountain breeze began to boom;
Aye when the magic chords it rung,
He raised his voice and blithely sung.
“Hush, my wild harp, thy notes forbear;
No blooming maids nor elves are here:
Forbear a while that witching tone,
Thou must not, canst not sing alone.
When Summer flings her watchet screen
At eve o’er Ettrick woods so green,
Thy notes shall many a heart beguile;
Young Beauty’s eye shall o’er thee smile,
And fairies trip it merrily
Around my royal harp and me.”

Long has that harp of magic tone
To all the minstrel world been known:

Who has not heard her witching lays,
Of Ettrick banks and Yarrow braes ?
But that sweet bard, who sung and played
Of many a feat and Border raid,
Of many a knight and lovely maid,
When forced to leave his harp behind,
Did all her tuneful chords unwind ;
And many ages past and came
Ere man so well could tune the same.

Bangour the daring task essayed,
Not half the chords his fingers played ;
Yet even then some thrilling lays
Bespoke the harp of ancient days.

Redoubted Ramsay's peasant skill
Flung some strained notes along the hill ;
His was some lyre from lady's hall,
And not the mountain harp at all.

Langhorn arrived from Southern dale,
And chimed his notes on Yarrow vale,

They would not, could not, touch the heart ;
His was the modish lyre of art.

Sweet rung the harp to Logan's hand :
Then Leyden came from Border land,
With dauntless heart and ardour high,
And wild impatience in his eye.
Though false his tones at times might be,
Though wild notes marred the symphony
Between, the glowing measure stole
That spoke the bard's inspired soul.
Sad were those strains, when hymn'd afar,
On the green vales of Malabar :
O'er seas beneath the golden morn,
They travelled, on the monsoon borne,
Thrilling the heart of Indian maid,
Beneath the wild banana's shade.—
Leyden ! a shepherd wails thy fate,
And Scotland knows her loss too late.

The day arrived—blest be the day,
Walter the abbot came that way !—

The sacred relic met his view—
Ah ! well the pledge of heaven he knew !
He screwed the chords, he tried a strain ;
'Twas wild—he tuned and tried again,
Then poured the numbers bold and free,
The simple magic melody.

The land was charmed to list his lays ;
It knew the harp of ancient days.
The Border chiefs, that long had been
In sepulchres unheard and green,
Passed from their mouldy vaults away,
In armour red and stern array,
And by their moonlight halls were seen,
In visor helm, and habergeon.
Even fairies sought our land again,
So powerful was the magic strain.

Blest be his generous heart for aye !
He told me where the relic lay ;

Pointed my way with ready will,
Afar on Ettrick's wildest hill;
Watched my first notes with curious eye,
And wondered at my minstrelsy :
He little weened a parent's tongue
Such strains had o'er my cradle sung.

O could the bard I loved so long,
Reprove my fond aspiring song !
Or could his tongue of candour say,
That I should throw my harp away !
Just when her notes began with skill,
To sound beneath the southern hill,
And twine around my bosom's core,
How could we part for evermore !
'Twas kindness all, I cannot blame,
For bootless is the minstrel flame ;
But sure, a bard might well have known
Another's feelings by his own !

Of change enamoured, woe the while !
He left our mountains, left the isle ;
And far to other kingdoms bore
The Caledonian harp of yore ;
But, to the hand that framed her true,
Only by force one strain she threw.
That harp he never more shall see,
Unless 'mong Scotland's hills with me.

Now, my loved Harp, a while farewell ;
I leave thee on the old gray thorn ;
The evening dew will mar thy swell,
That waked to joy the cheerful morn.

Farewell, sweet soother of my woe !
Chill blows the blast around my head ;
And louder yet that blast may blow,
When down this weary vale I've sped.

The wreath lies on Saint Mary's shore;
The mountain sounds are harsh and loud;
The lofty brows of stern Clokmore
Are visored with the moving cloud.

But Winter's deadly hues shall fade
On moorland bald and mountain shaw,
And soon the rainbow's lovely shade
Sleep on the breast of Bowerhope Law;

Then will the glowing suns of spring,
The genial shower and stealing dew,
Wake every forest bird to sing,
And every mountain flower renew.

But not the rainbow's ample ring,
That spans the glen and mountain grey,
Though fanned by western breeze's wing,
And sunned by summer's glowing ray,

To man decayed, can ever more
Renew the age of love and glee !
Can ever second spring restore
To my old mountain Harp and me !

But when the hue of softened green
Spreads over hill and lonely lea,
And lowly primrose opes unseen
Her virgin bosom to the bee ;

When hawthorns breathe their odours far,
And carols hail the year's return,
And daisy spreads her silver star
Unheeded by the mountain burn ;

Then will I seek the aged thorn,
The haunted wild and fairy ring,
Where oft thy erring numbers borne
Have taught the wandering winds to sing.

NOTES.

NOTES.

Note I.

*Those wakes, now played by minstrels poor,
At midnight's darkest, chilliest hour,
Those humble wakes, now scorned by all,
Were first begun in courtly hall.—Page 5.*

In former days, the term *Wake* was only used to distinguish the festive meeting which took place on the evening previous to the dedication of any particular church or chapel. The company sat up all the night, and, in England, amused themselves in various ways, as their inclinations were by habit or study directed. In Scotland, however, which was always the land of music and of song, music and song were the principal, often the only, amusements of the Wake. These songs were generally of a sacred or serious nature, and were chaunted to the old simple melodies of the country. *The Bush aboon Traquair, The Broom of Cowdenknows, John come kiss me now*, and many others, are still extant, set to the Psalms of David, and other spiritual songs, the Psalms being turned into a rude metre corresponding to the various measures of the tunes.

The difference in the application of the term which exists in the two sister kingdoms, sufficiently explains the consequences of the wakes in either. In England they have given rise to many fairs and festivals of long standing; and, from that origin, every fair or festival is denominated a *wake*. In Scotland the term is not used to distinguish any thing either subsistent or relative, save those serenades played by itinerant and nameless minstrels in the streets and squares of Edinburgh, which are inhabited by the great and wealthy, after midnight, about the time of the Christmas holidays. These seem to be the only remainder of the ancient wakes now in Scotland, and their effect upon a mind that delights in music is soothing and delicious beyond all previous conception. A person who can relish the concord of sweet sounds, gradually recalled from sleep by the music of the wakes, of which he had no previous anticipation, never fails of being deprived, for a considerable time, of all recollection, what condition, what place, or what world he is in. The minstrels who, in the reign of the Stuarts, enjoyed privileges which were even denied to the principal nobility, were, by degrees, driven from the tables of the great to the second, and afterwards to the common hall, that their music and songs might be heard, while they themselves were unseen. From the common hall they were obliged to retire to the porch or court; and so low has the characters of the minstrels descended, that the performers of the Christmas wakes are wholly unknown to the most part of those whom they serenade. They seem to be despised, but enjoy some small privileges, in order to keep up a name of high and ancient origin.

Note II.

*There rode the lords of France and Spain,
Of England, Flanders, and Lorrain,
While serried thousands round them stood,
From shore of Leith to Holyrood.*—P. 10.

Hollingshed describes Queen Mary's landing in Scotland, with her early misfortunes and accomplishments, after this manner: "She arrived at Leith the 20th of August, in the year of our Lord 1561, where she was honourably received by the Earl of Argyle, the Lords Erskine, the Prior of St Andrews, and the burgesses of Edinburgh, and conveyed to the Abbie of Holie-rood-house, for (as saith Buchanan) when some had spread abroad her landing in Scotland, the nobility and others assembled out of all parts of the realme, as it were to a common spectacle.

"This did they, partly to congratulate her return, and partly to shew the dutie which they alwaies bear unto her (when she was absent,) either to have thanks therefore, or to prevent the slanders of the enemies: wherefore not a few, by these beginnings of her reign, did gesse what would follow, although, in those so variable notions of the minds of the people, every one was very desirous to see their Queen offered unto them, (unlooked for,) after so many haps of both fortunes as had befallen her. For, when she was but six days old, she lost her father among the cruel tempests of battle, and was, with great diligence, brought up by her mother, (being a chosen and worthy person) but yet left as a prize to others, by reason of civil sedition in Scotland, and of outward wars with other nations, being further led

abroad to all the dangers of frowning fortune, before she could know what evil did mean.

“ For leaving her own country, she was nourished as a banished person, and hardly preserved in life from the weapons of her enemies, and violence of the seas. After which fortune began to flatter her, in that she honoured her with a worthy marriage, which, in truth, was rather a shadow of joie to this queen, than any comfort at all. For, shortly after the same, all things were turned to sorrow, by the death of her new young husband, and of her old and grieved mother, by loss of her new kingdom, and by the doubtful possession of her old heritable realme. But as for these things she was both pitied and praised, so was she also for gifts of nature as much beloved and favoured, in that beneficial nature (or rather good God) had indued her with a beautiful face, a well composed body, an excellent-wit, a mild nature, and good behaviour, which she had artificially furthered by courtly education, and affable demeanor. Whereby, at the first sight, she wan unto her the hearts of most, and confirmed the love of her faithful subjects.”—*Holl.* p. 314. Arbroath Ed.

With regard to the music, which so deeply engaged her attention, we have different accounts by contemporaries, and those at complete variance with one another. Knox says, “ Fyres of joy were set furth at niglt, and a companie of maist honest men, with instruments of musick, gaye ther salutation at hir chalmer windo: the melodie, as sche alledged, lyked her weill, and sche willed the sam to be continued sum nychts efter with grit dilligence.” But Dufresnoy, who was one of the party who accompanied the Queen, gives a very different account of these Scottish minstrels. “ We landed

at Leith," says he, "and went from thence to Edinburgh, which is but a short league distant. The Queen went there on horseback, and the lords and ladies who accompanied her upon the little wretched hackneys of the country, as wretchedly capparisoned; at sight of which the Queen began to weep, and to compare them with the pomp and superb palfreys of France. But there was no remedy but patience. What was worst of all, being arrived at Edinburgh, and retired to rest in the Abbey (which is really a fine building, and not at all partaking of the rudeness of that country), there came under her window a crew of five or six hundred scoundrels from the city, who gave her a serenade with wretched violins and little rebecks, of which there are enough in that country, and began to sing Psalms so miserably mistimed and mistuned, that nothing could be worse. Alas! what music! and what a night's rest!"

The Frenchman has had no taste for Scottish music—such another concert is certainly not in record.

Note III.

Ah! Kennedy, vengeance hangs over thine head!

Escape to thy native Glengarry forlorn.—P. 51.

The Clan Kennedy was only in the present age finally expelled from Glen-Garry, and forced to scatter over this and other countries. Its character among the Highlanders, is that of the most savage and irreclaimable tribe that ever infested the mountains of the north.

Note IV.

The Witch of Fife.—P. 67.

It may suffice to mention once for all, that the catastrophe of this tale, as well as the principal events re-

lated in the tales of *Old David* and *M'Gregor*, are all founded on popular traditions. So is also the romantic story of Kilmeny's disappearance and revisiting her friends, after being seven years in Fairyland. The tradition bears some resemblance to the old ballads of Tam Lean and Thomas of Erceldon; and it is not improbable that all the three may have drawn their origin from the same ancient romance.

Note V.

Glen-Avin.—P. 98.

There are many scenes among the Grampian deserts which amaze the traveller who ventures to explore them; and in the most pathless wastes the most striking landscapes are often concealed. *Glen-Avin* exceeds them all in what may be termed stern and solemn grandeur. It is indeed a sublime solitude, in which the principal feature is deformity; yet that deformity is mixed with lines of wild beauty, such as an extensive lake, with its islets and bays, the straggling trees, and the spots of shaded green; and altogether it is such a scene as man has rarely looked upon. I spent a summer day in visiting it. The hills were clear of mist, yet the heavens were extremely dark—the effect upon the scene exceeded all description. My mind, during the whole day, experienced the same sort of sensation as if I had been in a dream; and on returning from the excursion, I did not wonder at the superstition of the neighbouring inhabitants, who believe it to be the summer haunt of innumerable tribes of fairies, and many other spirits, some of whom seem to be the most fantastic, and to behave in the most eccentric manner, of any I ever before heard of. Though the glen is upwards of twenty miles

in length, and of prodigious extent, it contains no human habitation. It lies in the west corner of Banffshire, in the very middle of the Grampian hills.

Note VI.

*Oft had that seer, at dawn of morn,
Beheld the fahm glide o'er the fell.*—P. 101

Fahm is a little ugly monster, who frequents the summits of the mountains around Glen-Avin, and no other place in the world that I know of. My guide, D. M'Queen, declared that he had himself seen him, and, by his description, Fahm appears to be no native of this world, but an occasional visitant, whose intentions are evil and dangerous. He is only seen about the break of day, and on the highest verge of the mountain. His head is twice as large as his whole body beside; and if any living creature cross the track over which he has passed before the sun shine upon it, certain death is the consequence. The head of that person or animal instantly begins to swell, grows to an immense size, and finally bursts. Such a disease is really incident to sheep on those heights, and in several parts of the kingdom, where the grounds are elevated to a great height above the sea; but in no place save Glen-Avin is Fahm blamed for it.

Note VII.

*Even far on Yarrow's fairy dale,
The shepherd paused in dumb dismay,
And passing shrieks adown the vale
Lured many a pitying hind away.*—P. 105.

It was reckoned a curious and unaccountable circumstance, that, during the time of a great fall of snow by

night, a cry, as of a person who had lost his way in the storm, was heard along the vale of Ettrick from its head to its foot. What was the people's astonishment, when it was authenticated, that upwards of twenty parties had all been out with torches, lanthorns, &c. at the same hour of the night, calling and searching after some unknown person, whom they believed perishing in the snow, and that none of them had discovered any such person—the word spread; the circumstances were magnified—and the consternation became general. The people believed that a whole horde of evil spirits had been abroad in the valley, endeavouring to lure them abroad to their destruction—there was no man sure of his life!—prayers and thanksgivings were offered up to heaven in every hamlet, and resolutions unanimously formed, that no man perishing in the snow should ever be looked after again as long as the world stood.

When the astonishment had somewhat subsided by exhausting itself, and the tale of horror spread too wide ever to be recalled, a lad, without the smallest reference to the phenomenon, chanced to mention, that on the night of the storm, when he was out on the hill turning his sheep to some shelter, a flock of swans passed over his head toward the western sea, which was a sure signal of severe weather; and that at intervals they were always shouting and answering one another, in an extraordinary, and rather fearsome manner.—It was an unfortunate discovery, and marred the harmony of many an evening's conversation! In whatever cot the circumstance was mentioned, the old shepherds rose and went out—the youngers, who had listened to the prayers with reverence and fear, bit their lips—the matrons plied away at their wheels in silence—it was

singular that none of them should have known the voice of a swan from that of the devil!—they were very angry with the lad, and regarded him as a sort of blasphemer.

Note VIII.

*See yon lone cairn so gray with age,
Above the base of proud Cairn-Gorm.—P. 108.*

I only saw this old cairn at a distance; but the narrative which my guide gave me of the old man's loss was very affecting. He had gone to the forest in November to look after some goats that were missing, when a dreadful storm came suddenly on, the effects of which were felt throughout the kingdom. It was well enough known that he was lost in the forest, but the snow being so deep, it was judged impossible to find the body, and no one looked after it. It was not discovered until the harvest following, when it was found accidentally by a shepherd. The plaid and clothes which were uppermost not being decayed, it appeared like the body of a man lying entire; but when he began to move them, the dry bones rattled together, and the bare white scull was lying in the bonnet.

Note IX.

Old David.—P. 113.

I remember hearing a very old man, named David Laidlaw, who lived somewhere in the neighbourhood of Hawick, relate many of the adventures of this old moss-trooper, his great progenitor, and the first who ever bore the name. He described him as a great champion—a man quite invincible, and quoted several verses of a

ballad relating to him, which I never heard either before or since. I remember only one of them :

There was ane banna of barley meal
 Cam duntin dunc by Davy's sheil,
 But out cam Davy and his lads,
 And dang the banna a' in blads.

He explained how this "bannock of barley meal" meant a rich booty, which the old hero captured from a band of marauders. He lived at Garwell in Eskdale-moor.

Lochy-Law, where the principal scene of this tale is laid, is a hill on the lands of Shorthope in the wilds of Ettrick. The Fairy Slack is up in the middle of the hill, a very curious ravine, and would be much more so when overshadowed with wood. The Back-burn which joins the Ettrick immediately below this hill, has been haunted time immemorial, both by the fairies, and the ghost of a wandering minstrel who was cruelly murdered there, and who sleeps in a lone grave a small distance from the ford.

Note X.

And fears of elf, and fairy raid,

Have like a morning dream decayed.—P. 132.

The fairies have now totally disappeared, and it is a pity they should ; for they seem to have been the most delightful little spirits that ever haunted the Scottish dells. — There are only very few now remaining alive who have ever seen them ; and when they did, it was on Hallow-evenings while they were young, when the gospel was not very rife in the country. But, strange as it may appear, with the witches it is far otherwise. Never, in the most superstitious ages, was the existence of witches, or the influence of their diabolical power,

more firmly believed in, than by the inhabitants of the mountains of Ettrick Forest at the present day. Many precautions and charms are used to avert this influence, and scarcely does a summer elapse in which there are not some of the most gross incantations practised, in order to free flocks and herds from the blasting power of these old hags. There are two farmers still living, who will both make oath that they have wounded several old wives with shot as they were traversing the air in the shapes of moor-fowl and partridges.—A very singular amusement that for old wives!—I heard one of these *gentlemen* relate, with the utmost seriousness, and as a matter he did not wish to be generally known, that one morning, going out a fowling, he sprung a pair of moor-fowl in a place where it was not customary for moor-fowl to stay—he fired at the hen—wounded her, and eyed her until she alighted beyond an old dike—when he went to the spot, his astonishment may be well conceived, when he found Nell —, picking the hail out of her limbs! He was extremely vexed that he had not shot the cock, for he was almost certain he was no other than *Wattie Grieve!!!*

The tales and anecdotes of celebrated witches that are still related in the country, are extremely whimsical and diverting. The following is a *well-authenticated one*. A number of gentlemen were one day met for a chace on the lands of Newhouse and Kirkhope—their greyhounds were numerous and keen, but not a hare could they raise. At length a boy came to them, who offered to start a hare to them, if they would give him a guinea, and the black greyhound to hold. The demand was singular, but it was peremptory, and on other conditions he would not comply. The guerdon was accordingly paid—the hare was started, and the sport

afforded by the chace was excellent—the greyhounds were all baffled, and began to give up one by one, when one of the party came sily behind the boy, and cut the leish in which he held the black dog—away he flew to join the chace.—The boy, losing all recollection, ran, bawling out with great vociferation, “Huy, mither, rin!! Hay, rin, ye auld witch, if ever ye ran i’ yer life!! Rin, mither, rin!!” The black dog came fast up with her, and was just beginning to *mouth* her, when she sprung in at the window of a little cottage and escaped. The riders soon came to the place, and entered the cot in search of the hare; but lo! there was no living creature there but the old woman lying panting in a bed, so breathless that she could not speak a word!!!

But the best old witch tale that remains, is that which is related of the celebrated Michael Scott, Master of Oakwad. Mr Walter Scott has preserved it, but so altered from the original way, that it is not easy to recognize it. The old people tell it as follows: There was one of Mr Michael’s tenants who had a wife that was the most notable witch of the age. So extraordinary were her powers, that the country people began to put them in competition with those of the Master, and say, that in some *cantrips* she surpassed him. Michael could ill brook such insinuations; for there is always jealousy between great characters, and went over one day with his dogs on pretence of hunting, but in reality with an intent of exercising some of his infernal power in the chastisement of Lucky — (I have the best reason in the world for concealing her reputed name.) He found her alone in the field weeding lint; and desired her, in a friendly manner, to show him some of her powerful art. She was very angry with him, and denied that she had any supernatural skill.

He, however, continuing to press her, she told him sharply to let her alone, else she would make him repent the day he troubled her. How she perceived the virtues of Michael's wand is not known, but in a moment she snatched it from his hand, and gave him three lashes with it. The knight was momentarily changed to a hare, when the malicious and inveterate hag cried out, laughing, "Shu, Michael, rin or dee!" and baited all his own dogs upon him. He was extremely hard hunted, and was obliged to swim the river, and take shelter in the sewer of his own castle from the fury of his pursuers, where he got leisure to change himself again to a man.

Michael being extremely chagrined at having been thus outwitted, studied a deadly revenge; and going over afterwards to hunt, he sent his man to Fauldshope to borrow some bread from Lucky — to give to his dogs, for that he had neglected to feed them before he came from home. If she gave him the bread, he was to thank her and come away; but if she refused it, he gave him a line written in red characters, which he was to lodge above the lintel as he came out. The servant found her baking of bread, as his master assured him he would, and delivered his message. She received him most ungraciously, and absolutely refused to give him any bread, alleging, as an excuse, that she had not as much as would serve her own reapers to dinner. The man said no more, but lodged the line as directed, and returned to his master. The powerful spell had the desired effect; Lucky — instantly threw off her clothes, and danced round and round the fire like one quite mad, singing the while with great glee,

"Master Michael Scott's man
Cam seekin bread an' gat nane."

The dinner hour arrived, but the reapers looked in vain for their dame, who was wont to bring it to them to the field. The goodman sent home a servant girl to assist her, but neither did she return. At length he ordered them to go and take their dinner at home, for he suspected his spouse had taken some of her *tirrapies*. All of them went inadvertently into the house, and, as soon as they passed beneath the mighty charm, were seized with the same mania, and followed the example of their mistress. The goodman, who had tarried behind, setting some shocks of corn, came home last; and hearing the noise ere ever he came near the house, he did not venture to go in, but peeped in at the window. There he beheld all his people dancing naked round and round the fire, and singing, "Master Michael Scott's man," with the most frantic wildness. His wife was by that time quite exhausted, and the rest were half trailing her around. She could only now and then pronounce a syllable of the song, which she did with a kind of scream, yet seemed as intent on the sport as ever.

The goodman mounted his horse, and rode with all speed to the Master, to enquire what he had done to his people which had put them all mad. Michael bade him take down the note from the lintel and burn it, which he did, and all the people returned to their senses. Poor Lucky — died overnight, and Michael remained unmatched and alone in all the arts of enchantment and necromancy.

Note XI.

The Spectre's Cradle Song.—P. 140.

I mentioned formerly that the tale of M'Gregor is

founded on a popular Highland tradition—so also is this Song of the Spectre in the introduction to it, which, to me at least, gives it a peculiar interest. As I was once travelling up Glen-Dochart, attended by Donald Fisher, a shepherd of that country, he pointed out to me some curious green dens, by the side of the large rivulet which descends from the back of Ben More, the name of which, in the Gaelic language, signifies *the abode of the fairies*. A native of that country, who is still living, happening to be benighted there one summer evening, without knowing that the place was haunted, wrapped himself in his plaid, and lay down to sleep till the morning. About midnight he was awaked by the most enchanting music; and on listening, he heard it to be the voice of a woman singing to her child. She sung the verses twice over, so that next morning he had several of them by heart. Fisher had heard them often recited in Gaelic, and he said they were wild beyond human conception. He remembered only a few lines, which were to the same purport with the Spirit's Song here inserted, namely, that she (the singer) had brought her babe from the regions below to be cooled by the breeze of the world, and that they would soon be obliged to part, for the child was going to heaven, and she was to remain for a season in purgatory. I had not before heard any thing so truly romantic.

Note XII.

*That the pine, which for ages had shed a bright halo,
 Afar round the mountains of Highland Glen-Falo,
 Should wither and fall ere the turn of yon moon,
 Smit through by the canker of hated Colquhoun.*—P. 145.

The pine was the standard, and is still the crest of

the M'Gregors; and it is well known that the proscription of that clan was occasioned by a slaughter of the Colquhouns, who were its constant and inveterate enemies. That bloody business let loose the vengeance of the country upon them, which had nearly extirpated the name. The Campbells and the Grahams arose and hunted them down like wild beasts, until a M'Gregor could no more be found.

Note XIII.

Earl Walter.—P. 150.

This ballad is founded on a well-known historical fact. Hollingshed mentions it slightly in the following words: "A Frenchman named Sir Anthony Darcie, knight, called afterwards *Le Sir de la Bawtie*, came through England into Scotland, to seek feats of arms. And coming to the king the four and twentie of September, the Lord Hamilton fought with him right valiantly, and so as neither of them lost any piece of honour."

Note XIV.

From this the Hamiltons of Clyde,

Their royal lineage draw.—P. 167.

The Princess Margaret of Scotland was married to the Lord Hamilton when only sixteen years of age, who received the earldom of Arran as her dowry. Hollingshed says, "Of this marriage, those of the house of Hamilton are descended, and are nearest of blood to the crown of Scotland, as they pretend; for (as saith Lesleus, *lib. viii. p. 316,*) if the line of the Stewards fail, the crown is to come to them."

Note XV.

Kilmeny.—P. 171.

Beside the old tradition on which this ballad is founded, there are some modern incidents of a similar nature, which cannot well be accounted for, yet are as well attested as any occurrence that has taken place in the present age. The relation may be amusing to some readers.

A man in the parish of Traquair, and county of Peebles, was busied one day casting turf in a large open field opposite to the mansion-house—the spot is well known, and still pointed out as rather unsafe; his daughter, a child seven years of age, was playing beside him, and amusing him with her prattle. Chancing to ask a question at her, he was surprised at receiving no answer, and, looking behind him, he perceived that his child was not there. He always averred that, as far as he could remember, she had been talking to him about half a minute before; he was certain it was not above a whole one at most. It was in vain that he ran searching all about like one distracted, calling her name;—no trace of her remained. He went home in a state of mind that may be better conceived than expressed, and raised the people of the parish, who searched for her several days with the same success. Every pool in the river, every bush and den on the mountains around was searched in vain. It was remarked that the father never much encouraged the search, being thoroughly persuaded that she was carried away by some invisible being, else she could not have vanished so suddenly. As a last resource, he applied to the minister of Inverlethen, a neighbouring divine of exem-

plary piety and zeal in religious matters, who enjoined him to cause prayers be offered to God for her in seven Christian churches, next Sabbath, at the same instant of time; "and then," said he, "if she is dead, God will forgive our sin in praying for the dead, as we do it through ignorance; and if she is still alive, I will answer for it, that all the devils in hell shall be unable to keep her." The injunction was punctually attended to. She was remembered in the prayers of all the neighbouring congregations, next Sunday, at the same hour, and never were there such prayers for fervour heard before. There was one divine in particular, Mr Davidson, who prayed in such a manner that all the hearers trembled. As the old divine foreboded, so it fell out. On that very day, and within an hour of the time on which these prayers were offered, the girl was found, in the Plora wood, sitting, picking the bark from a tree. She could give no perfect account of the circumstances which had befallen to her, but she said she did not want plenty of meat, for that her mother came and fed her with milk and bread several times a day, and sung her to sleep at night. Her skin had acquired a blueish cast, which wore gradually off in the course of a few weeks. Her name was Salton,—she lived to be the mother of a family.

Another circumstance, though it happened still later, is not less remarkable. A shepherd of Tushilaw, in the parish of Ettrick, whose name was Walter Dalgleish, went out to the heights of that farm, one Sabbath morning, to herd the young sheep for his son, and let him to church. He took his own dinner along with him, and his son's breakfast. When the sermons were over, the lad went straight home, and did not return.

to his father. Night came, but nothing of the old shepherd appeared. When it grew very late his dog came home—seemed terrified, and refused to take any meat. The family were ill at ease during the night, especially as they never had known his dog leave him before; and early next morning the lad arose and went to the height to look after his father and his flock. He found his sheep all scattered, and his father's dinner unbroken, lying on the same spot where they had parted the day before. At the distance of 20 yards from the spot, the plaid which the old man wore was lying as if it had been flung from him, and a little farther on, in the same direction, his bonnet was found, but nothing of himself. The country people, as on all such occasions, rose in great numbers, and searched for him many days. My father, and several old men still alive, were of the party. He could not be found or heard of, neither dead nor alive, and at length they gave up all thoughts of ever seeing him more.

On the 20th day after his disappearance, a shepherd's wife, at a place called Berry-bush, came in as the family was sitting down to dinner, and said, that if it were possible to believe that Walter Dalgleish was still in existence, she would say yonder was he coming down the hill. They all ran out to watch the phenomenon, and as the person approached nigher, they perceived that it was actually he, walking without his plaid and his bonnet. The place where he was first descried is not a mile distant from that where he was last seen. When he came into the house, he shook hands with them all—asked for his family, and spoke as if he had been absent for years, and as if convinced something had befallen them. As they perceived something sin-

gular in his looks and manner, they unfortunately forbore asking him any questions at first, but desired him to sit and share their dinner. This he readily complied with, and began to sup some broth with seeming eagerness. He had only taken one or two spoonfuls when he suddenly stopped, a kind of rattling noise was heard in his breast, and he sunk back in a faint. They put him to bed, and from that time forth, he never spoke another word that any person could make sense of. He was removed to his own home, where he lingered a few weeks, and then died. What befel him remains to this day a mystery, and for ever must.

NOTE XVI.

But oft the listening groups stood still,

For spirits talked along the hill.—P. 198.

The echoes of evening, which are occasioned by the voices or mirth of different parties not aware of each other, have a curious and striking effect. I have known some country people terrified almost out of their senses at hearing voices and laughter among cliffs, where they knew it impossible for human being to reach. Some of the echoes around Edinburgh are extremely grand; what would they then be were the hills covered with wood? I have witnessed nothing more romantic than from a situation behind the Pleasance, where all the noises of the city are completely hushed, to hear the notes of the drum, trumpet, and bugle, poured from the cliffs of Salisbury, and the viewless cannons thundering from the rock. The effect is truly sublime.

Note XVII.

Mary Scott.—P. 202.

This ballad is founded on the old song of *The Grey Goss Hawk*. The catastrophe is the same, and happens at the same place, namely, in St Mary's churchyard. The castle of Tushilaw, where the chief scene of the tale is laid, stood on a shelf of the hill which overlooks the junction of the rivers Ettrick and Rankleburn. It is a singular situation, and seems to have been chosen for the extensive prospect of the valley which it commands both to the east and west. It was the finest old baronial castle of which the Forest can boast, but the upper arches and turrets fell in, of late years, with a crash that alarmed the whole neighbourhood. It is now a huge heap of ruins. Its last inhabitant was Adam Scott, who was long denominated in the south the *King of the Border*, but the courtiers called him the *King of Thieves*. King James V. acted upon the same principle with these powerful chiefs, most of whom disregarded his authority, as Bonaparte has done with the sovereigns of Europe. He always managed matters so as to take each of them single-handed—made a rapid and secret march—overthrew one or two of them, and then returned directly home till matters were ripe for taking the advantage of some other. He marched on one day from Edinburgh to Meggatdale, accompanied by a chosen body of horsemen, surprised Peres Cockburn, a bold and capricious outlaw who tyrannized over those parts, hanged him over his own gate, sacked and burnt his castle of Henderland, and divided his lands between two of his principal followers, Sir James Stuart and the Lord

Hume. From Henderland he marched across the mountains by a wild unfrequented path, still called *the King's Road*, and appeared before the gates of Tushilaw about sun-rise. Scott was completely taken by surprise; he, however, rushed to arms with his few friends who were present, and, after a desperate but unequal conflict, King James overcame him, plundered his castle of riches and stores to a prodigious amount, hanged the old Borderer king over a huge tree which is still growing in the corner of the castle yard, and over which he himself had hanged many a one, carried his head with him in triumph to Edinburgh, and placed it on a pole over one of the ports. There was a long and deadly feud between the Scotts and the Kers in those days; the Pringles, Murrays, and others around, always joined with the latter, in order to keep down the too powerful Scotts, who were not noted as the best of neighbours.

Note XVIII.

King Edward's dream.—P. 249.

The scene of this ballad is on the banks of the Eden in Cumberland, a day's march back from Burgh, on the sands of Solway, where King Edward I. died, in the midst of an expedition against the Scots, in which he had solemnly sworn to extirpate them as a nation.

Note XIX.

Dumlanrig.—P. 258.

This ballad relates to a well-known historical fact, of which tradition has preserved an accurate and feasible detail. The battles took place two or three years subsequent to the death of King James V. I have

heard that it is succinctly related by some historian, but I have forgot who it is. Hollingshed gives a long bungling account of the matter, but places the one battle a year before the other; whereas it does not appear that Lennox made two excursions into Nithsdale, at the head of the English forces, or fought two bloody battles with the laird of Dumlanrig on the same ground, as the historian would insinuate. He says, that Dumlanrig, after pursuing them cautiously for some time, was overthrown in attempting to cross a ford of the river too rashly, that he lost two of his principal kinsmen, and 200 of his followers, had several spears broken upon his body, and escaped only by the goodness of his horse. The battle which took place next night, he relates as having happened next year; but it must be visible to every reader that he is speaking of the same incidents in the annals of both years. In the second engagement he acknowledges that Dumlanrig defeated the English horse, which he attributes to a desertion from the latter, but that, after pursuing them as far as Dalswinton, they were joined by the foot, and retrieved the day. The account given of the battles, by Lesleus and Fran. Thin, seems to have been so different, that they have misled the chronologer; the names of the towns and villages appearing to him so different, whereas a local knowledge of the country would have convinced him that both accounts related to the same engagements.

Note XX.

McKinnon the Abbot.—P. 290.

To describe the astonishing scenes to which this romantic tale relates, Icolmkill and Staffa, so well known

to the curious, would only be multiplying pages to no purpose.

Note XXI.

O, wise was the founder, and well said he,

"Where there are women mischief must be!"—P. 292.

St Columba placed the nuns in an island at a little distance from I, as the natives call Iona. He would not suffer either a cow or a woman to set foot on it; "for where there are cows," said he, "there must be women; and where there are women, there must be mischief."

Note XXII.

The Harp of Ettrick rung again.—P. 320.

That some notable bard flourished in Ettrick Forest in that age, is evident from the numerous ballads and songs which relate to places in that country, and incidents that happened there. Many of these are of a very superior cast. *Outlaw Murray, Young Tam Lean of Carterhaugh, Jamie Telfer i' the fair Dodhead, The dowy Downs of Yarrow*, and many others, are of the number. Dunbar, in his Lament for the Bards, merely mentions him by the title of *Etrick*; more of him we know not.

Note XXIII.

Gardyn is crowned with garlands gay,

And bears the envied prize away.—P. 321.

Queen Mary's harp, of most curious workmanship, was found in the house of Lude, on the banks of the Garry in Athol, as was the old Caledonian harp. They were both brought to that house by a bride, which the

chieftain of Lude married from the family of Gardyn of Banchory (now Garden of Troup.) It was defaced of all its ornaments, and Queen Mary's portrait, set in gold and jewels, during the time of the last rebellion. How it came into the possession of that family is not known, at least traditions vary considerably regarding the incident. But there is every reason to suppose, that it was given in consequence of some musical excellency in one or other of the Gardyns; for it may scarcely be deemed, that the royal donor would confer so rich and so curious an instrument on one who could make no use of it. So far does the tale correspond with truth, and there is besides a farther coincidence of which I was not previously aware. I find, that Queen Mary actually gave a grand treat at Holyrood-house at the very time specified in the Poem, where great proficiency was displayed both in music and dancing.

Note XXIV.

Coomb—is a Scots Lowland term, and used to distinguish all such hills as are scooped out on one side in form of a crescent. The bosom of the hill, or that portion which lies within the lunated verge, is always denominated *the coomb*.

Note XXV.

Shaw—is likewise a Lowland term, and denotes the snout, or brow of a hill; but the part so denominated is always understood to be of a particular form, broad at the base, and contracted to a point above. Each of these terms conveys to the mind a strong picture of the place so designed. Both are very common.

Note XXVI.

Law—signifies a detached hill of any description, but more generally such as are of a round or conical form. It seems to bear the same acceptation in the Lowlands of Scotland, as *Ben* does in the Highlands. The term is supposed to have had its derivation from the circumstance of the ancient inhabitants of the country distributing the *law* on the tops of such hills; and where no one of that form was nigh, artificial mounds were raised in the neighbourhood of towns for that purpose. Hence they were originally called *Law-hills*; but, by a natural and easy contraction, the *laws* and the *hills* of the country came to signify the same thing. A little affinity may still be traced;—both were effective in impeding the progress of an hostile invader; while the hardy native surmounted both without difficulty, and without concern.

Note XXVII.

Glen—is a term common to every part of Scotland alike, and invariably denotes the whole course of a mountain stream, with all the hills and vallies on each side to the first summit. It is an indefinite term, and describes no particular size, or local appearance of a river, or the scenery contiguous to it, farther than that it is one, and inclined to be narrow and confined between the hills; these glens being from one to thirty miles in length, and proportionably dissimilar in other respects. By a *Glen*, however, is generally to be understood a branch of a greater river. The course of the great river is denominated the *Strath*, as Strath-Tay, Strath-Spey, &c.; and the lesser rivers which communicate with these are the *Glens*. There may be

a few exceptions from this general rule, but they are of no avail as affecting the acceptation of the term whenever it is used as descriptive.

Note XXVIII.

Strone.—(Only once used.)—A *Strone* is that hill which terminates the range. It is a Highland term, but common in the middle districts of Scotland.

Note XXIX.

Ben—is likewise a Highland term, and denotes a mountain of a pyramidal form, which stands unconnected with others.

Note XXX.

Dale—is the course of a Lowland river, with its adjacent hills and vallies. It conveys the same meaning as Strath does in the Highlands.

Note XXXI.

Wale—(only once used)—is a Hebridean term, and signifies the verge or brim of the mountain. It is supposed to be modern, and used only in those maritime districts, as having a reference to the gunnel, or wale, of a ship or boat.

Note XXXII.

Cory, or *Correi*—is a northern term, and is invariably descriptive of a green hollow part of the mountain, from which a rivulet descends.

Note XXXIII.

If there is any other word or term peculiar to Scotland, I am not aware of it. The Songs of the two

bards, indeed, who affect to imitate the ancient manner, abound with old Scotch words and terms, which, it is presumed, the rythm, the tenor of the verse, and the narrative, will illustrate, though they may not be found in any glossary of that language. These are, indeed, generally so notoriously deficient and absurd, that it is painful for any one conversant in the genuine old provincial dialect to look into them.

Ignorant, however, as I am of every dialect save my mother tongue, I imagine that I understand so much of the English language as to perceive that its muscular strength consists in the energy of its primitive stem,—in the trunk from which all its foliage hath sprung, and around which its exuberant tendrils are all entwined and interwoven,—I mean the remains of the ancient Teutonic. On the strength of this conceived principle, which may haply be erroneous, I have laid it down as a maxim, that the greater number of these old words and terms that can be introduced with propriety into our language, the better. To this my casual innovations must be attributed. The authority of Grahame and Scott has of late rendered a few of these old terms legitimate. If I had been as much master of the standard language as they, I would have introduced ten times more.

THE END.

EDINBURGH :

Printed by James Ballantyne and Co.

Pilgrims of the Sun

IN THREE VOLUMES.

THE

PILGRIMS OF THE SUN.

Belgium of the Sun;

A FORM

BY JAMES HOGG

EDITION OF THE BOOKS OF THE

WARRIORS OF THE SUN.

A copy to the author of the
Hoggs' edition of the books of the

WARRIORS

EDITION

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CALEDONIAN MERCURY PRESS.

1842

THE

Pilgrims of the Sun;

A POEM.

BY JAMES HOGG,

AUTHOR OF THE QUEEN'S WAKE, &c.

A pupil in the many chambered school
Where Superstition weaves her airy dreams.

WORDSWORTH.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR JOHN MURRAY, 50, ALBEMARLE STREET:

AND WILLIAM BLACKWOOD, SOUTH BRIDGE STREET,

EDINBURGH.

1815.

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LONDON

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TO THE
RIGHT HON. LORD BYRON.

*Not for thy crabbed state-creed, wayward wight,
Thy noble lineage, nor thy virtues high,
(God bless the mark!) do I this homage plight;
No—'tis thy bold and native energy;
Thy soul that dares each bound to overfly,
Ranging thro' Nature on erratic wing—
These do I honour—and would fondly try
With thee a wild ærial strain to sing:
Then, O! round Shepherd's head thy charmed mantle fling.*

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On the 1st of January

THE PILGRIMS OF THE SUN.

THE

PILGRIMS OF THE SUN.

PART FIRST.

PLATE OF THE SUN

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PLATE OF THE SUN

On the 1st of May 1777

The sun was seen at 11 o'clock

and was very bright and clear

and was seen at 12 o'clock

The sun was seen at 1 o'clock

and was very bright and clear

and was seen at 2 o'clock

The sun was seen at 3 o'clock

THE
PILGRIMS OF THE SUN.

PART FIRST.

OF all the lasses in fair Scotland,
That lightly bound o'er muir and lea,
There's nane like the maids of Yarrowdale,
Wi' their green coats kilted to the knec.
O ! there shines mony a winsom face,
And mony a bright and beaming ee ;
For rosy health blooms on the cheek,
And the blink of love plays o'er the bree.

But ne'er by Yarrow's sunny braes,
Nor Ettrick's green and wizzard shaw,
Did ever maid so lovely won
As Mary Lee of Carelha'.*

O ! round her fair and sightly form
The light hill-breeze was blythe to blow,
For the virgin hue her bosom wore
Was whiter than the drifted snow.

The dogs that wont to growl and bark,
Whene'er a stranger they could see,
Would cower, and creep along the sward,
And lick the hand of Mary Lee.

* Now vulgarly called Carterhaugh.

On form so fair, or face so mild,

The rising sun did never gleam ;

On such a pure untainted mind,

The dawn of truth did never beam.

She never had felt the stounds of love,

Nor the waefu' qualms that breed o' sin ;

But ah ! she shewed an absent look,

And a deep and thoughtfu' heart within.

She looked with joy on a young man's face,

The downy chin, and the burning eye,

Without desire, without a blush,

She loved them, but she knew not why.

She learned to read, when she was young,

The books of deep divinity ;

And she thought by night, and she read by day,

Of the life that is, and the life to be.

And the more she thought, and the more she read,

Of the ways of Heaven and Nature's plan,

She feared the half that the bedesmen said

Was neither true nor plain to man.

Yet she was meek, and bowed to Heaven

Each morn beneath the shady yew,

Before the laverock left the cloud,

Or the sun began his draught of dew.

And when the gloaming's gouden veil

Was o'er Blackandro's summit flung,

Among the bowers of green Bowhill

Her hymn she to the virgin sung

And aye she thought, and aye she read,
Till mystic wildness marked her air ;
For the doubts that on her bosom preyed
Were more than maiden's mind could bear.

And she grew weary of this world,
And yearned and pined the next to see ;
Till Heaven in pity earnest sent,
And from that thralldom set her free.

One eve when she had prayed and wept
Till daylight faded on the wold—
The third night of the waning moon !
Well known to hind and matron old !

For then the fairies boun' to ride,
And the elves of Ettrick's greenwood shaw ;

And aye their favourite rendezvous

Was green Bowhill and Carelha'.

There came a wight to Mary's knee,

With face, like angel's, mild and sweet ;

His robe was like the lilly's bloom,

And graceful flowed upon his feet.

He did not clasp her in his arms,

Nor showed he cumbrous courtesy ;

But took her gently by the hand,

Saying, " Maiden, rise and go with me.

" Cast off, cast off these earthly weeds,

They ill befit thy destiny ;

I come from a far distant land

To take thee where thou long'st to be."

She only felt a shivering throb,

A pang defined that may not be ;

And up she rose, a naked form,

More lightsome, pure, and fair than he.

He held a robe in his right hand,

Pure as the white rose in the bloom ;

That robe was not of earthly make,

Nor sewed by hand, nor wove in loom.

When she had doned that light seymar,

Upward her being seemed to bound ;

Like one that wades in waters deep,

And scarce can keep him to the ground.

Tho' rapt and transient was the pause,

She scarce could keep to ground the while;

She felt like heaving thistle down,

Hung to the earth by viewless pile.

The beauteous stranger turned his face

Unto the eastern streamers sheen,

He seemed to eye the ruby star

That rose above the Eildon green.

He spread his right hand to the heaven,

And he bade the maid not look behind,

But keep her face to the dark blue even ;

And away they bore upon the wind.

She did not linger, she did not look,

For in a moment they were gone ;

But she thought she saw her very form

Stretched on the greenwood's lap alone.

As ever you saw the meteor speed,

Or the arrow cleave the yielding wind,

Away they sprung, and the breezes sung,

And they left the gloaming star behind,

And eastward, eastward still they bore,

Along the night's grey canopy ;

And the din of the world died away,

And the landscape faded on the ee.

They had marked the dark blue waters lie

Like curved lines on many a vale ;

And they hung on the shelve of a saffron cloud,

That scarcely moved in the slumbering gale.

They turned their eyes to the heaven above,

And the stars blazed bright as they drew nigh ;

And they looked to the darksome world below,

But all was grey obscurity.

They could not trace the hill nor dale,

Nor could they ken where the greenwood lay ;

But they saw a thousand shadowy stars,

In many a winding watery way ;

And they better knew where the rivers ran

Than if it had been the open day.

They looked to the western shores afar,

But the light of day they could not see ;

And the halo of the evening star

Sank like a crescent on the sea.

Then onward, onward fast they bore

On the yielding winds so light and boon,

To meet the climes that bred the day,

And gave the glow to the gilded moon;

Long had she chambered in the deep,

To spite the maidens of the main,

But now frae the merman's couch she sprung,

And blushed upon her still domain.

When first from out the sea she peeped,

She kythed like maiden's gouden kemb,

And the sleepy waves washed o'er her brow,

And belled her cheek wi' the briny faem.

But the yellow leme spread up the lift,

And the stars grew dim before her e'e,

And up arose the Queen of Night

In all her solemn majesty.

O! Mary's heart was blythe to lie

Above the ocean wastes reclined,

Beside her lovely guide so high,

On the downy bosom of the wind.

She saw the shades and gleams so bright

Play o'er the deep incessantly,

Like streamers of the norland way,

The lights that danced on the quaking sea.

She saw the wraith of the waning moon,

Trembling and pale it seemed to lie;

It was not round like golden shield,

Nor like her moulded orb on high.

Her image cradled on the wave,

Scarce bore similitude the while;

It was a line of silver light,
Stretched on the deep for many a mile.

The lovely youth beheld with joy
That Mary loved such scenes to view ;
And away, and away they journeyed on,
Faster than wild bird ever flew.

Before the tide, before the wind,
The ship speeds swiftly o'er the faem ;
And the sailor sees the shores fly back,
And weens his station still the same.

Beyond that speed ten thousand times,
By the marled streak and the cloudlet brown,
Past our aerial travellers on
In the wan light of the waning moon.

They kepted aloof as they passed her bye,

For their views of the world were not yet done;

But they saw her mighty mountain form

Like Cheviot in the setting sun.

And the stars and the moon fled west away,

So swift o'er the vaulted sky they shone;

They seemed like fiery rainbows reared,

In a moment seen, in a moment gone.

Yet Mary Lee as easy felt

As if on silken couch she lay;

And soon on a rosy film they hung,

Above the beams of the breaking day.

And they saw the chambers of the sun,

And the angels of the dawning ray,

Draw the red curtains from the dome,

The glorious dome of the God of Day.

And the youth a slight obeisance made,

And seemed to bend upon his knee :

The holy vow he whispering said

Sunk deep in the heart of Mary Lee.

I may not say the prayer he prayed,

Nor of its wondrous tendency ;

But it proved that the half the bedesmen said

Was neither true nor ever could be.

Sweet breaks the day o'er Harlaw cairn,

On many an ancient peel and barrow,

On braken hill, and lonely tarn,

Along the greenwood glen of Yarrow.

Oft there had Mary viewed with joy

The rosy streaks of light unfurled :

O ! think how glowed the virgin's breast

Hung o'er the profile of the world.

On battlement of storied cloud

That floated o'er the dawn serene,

To pace along with angel tread,

And on the rainbow's arch to lean.

Her cheek lay on its rosy rim,

Her bosom pressed the yielding blue,

And her fair robes of heavenly make

Were sweetly tinged with every hue.

And there they lay, and there beheld

The glories of the opening morn

Spread o'er the eastern world afar,

Where winter wreath was never borne.

And they saw the blossom-loaded trees,

And gardens of perennial blow,

Spread their fair bosoms to the day,

In dappled pride, and endless glow.

These came and passed, for the earth rolled on,

But still on the brows of the air they hung ;

The scenes of glory they now beheld

May scarce by mortal bard be sung.

It was not the hues of the marbled sky,

Nor the gorgeous kingdoms of the East,

Nor the thousand blooming isles that lie

Like specks on the mighty ocean's breast :

It was the dwelling of that God

Who ope'd the welling springs of time ;

Seraph and cherubim's abode ;

The Eternal's throne of light sublime.

The virgin saw her radiant guide

On nature look with kindred eye ;

But whenever he turned him to the sun,

He bowed with deep solemnity.

And ah ! she deemed him heathen born,

Far from her own nativity,

In lands beneath the southern star,

Beyond the sun, beyond the sea.

And aye she watched with wistful eye,

But durst not question put the while ;

He marked her mute anxiety,

And o'er his features beamed the smile.

He took her slender hand in his,

And swift as fleets the stayless mind,

They scaled the glowing fields of day,

And left the elements behind.

When past the firmament of air,

Where no attractive influence came ;

There was no up, there was no down,

But all was space, and all the same.

The first green world that they passed by

Had 'habitants of mortal mould ;

For they saw the rich men, and the poor,

And they saw the young, and they saw the old.

But the next green world the twain past bye

They seemed of some superior frame ;

For all were in the bloom of youth,

And all their radiant robes the same.

And Mary saw the groves and trees,

And she saw the blossoms thereupon ;

But she saw no grave in all the land,

Nor church, nor yet a church-yard stone

That pleasant land is lost in light,

To every searching mortal eye ;

So nigh the sun its orbit sails,

That on his breast it seems to lie.

And, though its light be dazzling bright,

The warmth was gentle, mild, and bland,

Such as on summer days may be,

Far up the hills of Scottish land.

And Mary Lee longed much to stay

In that blest land of love and truth,

So nigh the fount of life and day ;

That land of beauty, and of youth.

“ O maiden of the wistful mind,

Here it behoves not to remain ;

But Mary, yet the time will come

When thou shalt see this land again.

“ Thou art a visitant beloved

Of God, and every holy one ;

And thou shalt travel on with me,

Around the spheres, around the sun,

To see what maid hath never seen,
And do what maid hath never done."

Thus spoke her fair and comely guide,
And took as erst her lily hand ;
And soon in holy ecstasy,
On mountains of the sun they stand.

Here I must leave the beauteous twain,
Casting their raptured eyes abroad,
Around the vallies of the sun,
And all the universe of God.

And I will bear my hill-harp hence,
And hang it on its ancient tree ;
For its wild warblings ill become
The scenes that ope'd to Mary Lee.

Thou holy harp of Judah's land,
That hung the willow boughs upon,
O leave the bowers on Jordan's strand,
And cedar groves of Lebanon :
That I may sound thy sacred string,
Those chords of mystery sublime,
That chimed the songs of Israel's King,
Songs that shall triumph over time.
Pour forth the trancing notes again,
That wont of yore the soul to thrill,
In tabernacles of the plain,
Or heights of Zion's holy hill.
O come, etherial timbrel meet,
In Shepherd's hand thou dost delight ;

On Kedar hills thy strain was sweet,

And sweet on Bethle'm's plain by night.

And when thy tones the land shall hear,

And every heart conjoins with thee,

The mountain lyre that lingers near

Will lend a wandering melody.

END OF PART FIRST.

PILGRIMS OF THE SUN.
THE

PILGRIMS OF THE SUN.

PART SECOND.

On the 10th of the month of June 1864
the following persons were present at the

meeting of the Board of Directors

WILLIAM H. HARRIS, President
JAMES H. HARRIS, Secretary

WILLIAM H. HARRIS, President
JAMES H. HARRIS, Secretary

WILLIAM H. HARRIS, President
JAMES H. HARRIS, Secretary

WILLIAM H. HARRIS, President
JAMES H. HARRIS, Secretary

WILLIAM H. HARRIS, President
JAMES H. HARRIS, Secretary

WILLIAM H. HARRIS, President
JAMES H. HARRIS, Secretary

WILLIAM H. HARRIS, President
JAMES H. HARRIS, Secretary

WILLIAM H. HARRIS, President
JAMES H. HARRIS, Secretary

WILLIAM H. HARRIS, President
JAMES H. HARRIS, Secretary

THE

PILGRIMS OF THE SUN.

PART SECOND.

HARP of Jerusalem ! how shall my hand
Awake thy Hallelujahs !—How begin
The song that tells of light ineffable,
And of the dwellers there ! The fountain pure,
And source of all—Where bright Archangels dwell,
And where, in unapproached pavilion, framed
Of twelve deep veils, and every veil composed
Of thousand thousand lustres, sits enthroned

The God of Nature !—O thou harp of Salem,
Where shall my strain begin !

Soft let it be,
And simple as its own primeval airs ;
And, Minstrel, when on angel wing thou soar'st,
Then will the harp of David rise with thee.

In that fair heaven the mortal virgin stood,
Beside her lovely guide, Cela his name.
Yes deem it heaven, for not the ample sky,
As seen from earth, could slight proportion bear
To those bright regions of eternal day,
Once they are gained.—So sweet the breeze of life
Breathed through the groves of amarynth—So sweet
The very touch of that celestial land.
Soon as the virgin trode thereon, she felt

Unspeakable delight—Sensations new
Thrilled her whole frame—As one, who his life long
Hath in a dark and chilly dungeon pined,
Feels when restored to freedom and the sun.

Upon a mount they stood of wreathy light
Which cloud had never rested on, nor hues
Of night had ever shaded—Thence they saw
The motioned universe, that wheeled around
In fair confusion—Raised as they were now
To the high fountain head of light and vision,
Where'er they cast their eyes abroad, they found
The light behind, the object still before ;
And on the rarified and pristine rays
Of vision borne, their piercing sight passed on
Intense and all unbounded—Onward !—onward !
No cloud to intervene ! no haze to dim !

Or nigh, or distant, it was all the same ;
For distance lessened not.—O what a scene,
To see so many goodly worlds upborne !
Around !—around !—all turning their green bosoms
And glittering waters to that orb of life
On which our travellers stood, and all by that
Sustained and gladdened ! By that orb sustained !
No—by the mighty everlasting one
Who in that orb resides, and round whose throne
Our journeyers now were hovering. But they kept
Aloof upon the skirts of heaven ; for, strange
Though it appears, there was no heaven beside.
They saw all nature—All that was they saw ;
But neither moon, nor stars, nor firmament,
Nor clefted galaxy, was any more.
Worlds beyond worlds, with intermundane voids,
That closed and opened as those worlds rolled on,

Were all that claimed existence : Each of these,
From one particular point of the sun's orb,
Seemed pendent by some ray or viewless cord,
On which it twirled and swung with endless motion.

O ! never did created being feel
Such rapt astonishment, as did this maid
Of earthly lineage, when she saw the plan
Of God's fair universe !—Himself enthroned
In light she dared not yet approach !—From whence
He viewed the whole, and with a father's care
Upheld and cherished.—Wonder seemed it none
That Godhead should discern each thing minute
That moved on his creation, when the eyes
Which he himself had made could thus perceive
All these broad orbs turn their omniferous breasts,
And sun them in their maker's influence.

O ! it was sweet to see their ample vales
Their yellow mountains, and their winding streams,
All basking in the beams of light and life !

Each one of all these worlds seemed the abode
Of intellectual beings ; but their forms,
Their beauty, and their natures, varied all.
And in these worlds there were broad oceans rolled,
And branching seas.—Some wore the hues of gold,
And some of emerald or of burnished glass.
And there were seas that keel had never plowed,
Nor had the shadow of a veering sail
Scared their inhabitants—for slumbering shades
And spirits brooded on them.

“ Cela speak,”
Said the delighted but inquiring maid,

“ And tell me which of all these worlds I see
Is that we lately left? For I would fain
Note how far more extensive 'tis and fair
Than all the rest—little, alas! I know
Of it, save that it is a right fair globe,
Diversified and huge, and that afar,
In one sweet corner of it lies a spot
I dearly love—where Tweed from distant moors
Far travelled flows in murmuring majesty;
And Yarrow rushing from her bosky banks,
Hurries with headlong haste to the embrace
Of her more stately sister of the hills.
Ah! yonder 'tis!—Now I perceive it well,”
Said she with ardent voice, bending her eye
And stretching forth her arm to a broad globe
That basked in the light—“ Yonder it is!

I know the Caledonian mountains well,
And mark the moony braes and curved heights
Above the lone St Mary.—Cela, speak ;
Is not that globe the world where I was born ;
And yon the land of my nativity ? ”
She turned around her beauteous earnest face,
With asking glance, but soon that glance withdrew,
And silent looked abroad on glowing worlds ;
For she beheld a smile on Cela’s face,
A smile that might an angel’s face become,
When listening to the boasted, pigmy skill,
Of high presuming man.—She looked abroad,
But nought distinctly marked—nor durst her eye
Again meet his, although that way her face
So near was turned, one glance might have read more ;
But yet that glance was staid. Pleased to behold
Her virgin modesty, and simple grace,

His hand upon her flexile shoulder pressed,

In kind and friendly guise, he thus began :

“ My lovely ward, think not I deem your quest

Impertinent or trivial—well aware

Of all the longings of humanity

Toward the first, haply the only scenes

Of nature e’er beheld or understood ;

Where the immortal and unquenched mind

First ope’d its treasures ; and the longing soul

Breathed its first yearnings of eternal hope.

I know it all ; nor do I deem it strange,

In such a wilderness of moving spheres,

Thou shouldst mistake the world that gave thee birth.

Prepare to wonder, and prepare to grieve :

For I perceive that thou hast deemed the earth

The fairest, and the most material part

Of God's creation. Mark yon cloudy spot,
Which yet thine eye hath never rested on ;
And tho' not long the viewless golden cord
That chains it to this heaven, ycleped the sun,
It seems a thing subordinate—a sphere
Unseemly and forbidding—'Tis the earth.
What think'st thou now of thy Almighty maker,
And of this goodly universe of his ? ”

Down sunk the virgin's eye—her heart seemed warped
Deep deep in meditation—while her face
Denoted mingled sadness.—'Twas a thought
She trembled to express. At length with blush,
And faltering tongue, she mildly thus replied :

“ I see all these fair worlds inhabited
By beings of intelligence and mind.

O ! Cela, tell me this—Have they all fallen,
And sinned like us? And has a living God
Bled in each one of all these peopled worlds?
Or only on yon dank and dismal spot
Hath one Redeemer suffered for them all?"

" Hold, hold ;—No more !—Thou talkest thou know'st
not what,"

Said her conductor with a fervent mien ;

" More thou shalt know hereafter.—But meanwhile

This truth conceive, that God must ever deal

With men as men—Those things by him decreed,

Or compassed by permission, ever tend

To draw his creatures, whom he loves, to goodness ;

For he is all benevolence, and knows

That in the paths of virtue and of love

Alone, can final happiness be found.

More thou shalt know hereafter.—Pass we on
Around this glorious heaven, till by degrees
Thy frame and vision are so subtilised
As that thou may'st the inner regions near
Where dwell the holy angels—where the saints
Of God meet in assembly—seraphs sing,
And thousand harps, in unison complete,
With one vibration sound Jehovah's name.”

Far far away, thro' regions of delight
They journeyed on—not like the earthly pilgrim,
Fainting with hunger, thirst, and burning feet,
But, leaning forward on the liquid air,
Like twin-born eagles, skimmed the fields of light,
Circling the pales of heaven. In joyous mood,
Sometimes thro' groves of shady depth they strayed,
Arm linked in arm, as lovers walk the earth;

Or rested in the bowers where roses hung,
And flow'rets holding everlasting sweetness.
And they would light upon celestial hills
Of beauteous softened green, and converse hold
With beings like themselves in form and mind ;
Then, rising lightly from the velvet breast
Of the green mountain, down upon the vales
They swooped amain by lawns and streams of life ;
Then over mighty hills an arch they threw
Formed like the rainbow.—Never since the time
That God outspread the glowing fields of heaven
Were two such travellers seen !—In all that way
They saw new visitants hourly arrive
From other worlds, in that auspicious land
To live for ever.—These had sojourned far
From world to world more pure—till by degrees

After a thousand years progression, they
Stepped on the confines of that land of life,
Of bliss unspeakable and evermore.

Yet, after such probation of approach,
So exquisite the feelings of delight
Those heavenly regions yielded, 'twas beyond
Their power of sufferance.—Overcome with bliss,
They saw them wandering in amazement on,
With eyes that took no image on their spheres,
Misted in light and glory, or laid down,
Stretched on the sward of heaven in ecstasy.

Yet still their half-formed words, and breathings, were
Of one that loved them, and had brought them home
With him in full felicity to dwell.

To sing of all the scenes our travellers saw
An angel's harp were meet, which mortal hand
Must not assay.—These scenes must be concealed
From mortal fancy, and from mortal eye,
Until our weary pilgrimage is done.

They kept the outer heaven, for it behoved
Them so to do ; and in that course beheld
Immeasurable vales, all colonized
From worlds subjacent.—Passing inward still
Toward the centre of the heavens, they saw
The dwellings of the saints of ancient days
And martyrs for the right—men of all creeds,
Features, and hues ! Much did the virgin muse,
And much reflect on this strange mystery,
So ill conform to all she had been taught
From infancy to think, by holy men ;

Till looking round upon the spacious globes
Dependent on that heaven of light—and all
Rejoicing in their God's beneficence,
These words spontaneously burst from her lips :
“ Child that I was, ah ! could my stinted mind
Harbour the thought, that the Almighty's love,
Life, and salvation, could to single sect
Of creatures be confined, all his alike ! ”

Last of them all, in ample circle spread
Around the palaces of heaven, they past
The habitations of these radiant tribes
That never in the walks of mortal life
Had sojourned, or with human passions toiled.
Pure were they framed ; and round the skirts of heaven
At first were placed, till other dwellers came
From other spheres, by human beings nursed.

Then inward those withdrew, more meet to dwell
In beatific regions. These again
Followed by more, in order regular,
Neared to perfection. It was most apparent
Thro' all created nature, that each being,
From the archangel to the meanest soul—
Cherished by savage, cavered in the snow,
Or panting on the brown and sultry desert,
That all were in progression—moving on
Still to perfection. In conformity
The human soul is modelled—hoping still
In something onward ! Something far beyond,
It fain would grasp !—Nor shall that hope be lost !
The soul shall hold it—she shall hope, and yearn,
And grasp, and gain, for times and ages, more
Than thought can fathom, or proud science climb !

At length they reached a vale of wonderous form
And dread dimensions, where the tribes of heaven
Assembly held, each in its proper sphere
And order placed. That vale extended far
Across the heavenly regions, and its form
A tall gazon, or level pyramid.
Along its borders palaces were ranged,
All fronted with the thrones of beauteous seraphs,
Who sat with eyes turned to the inmost point
Leaning upon their harps ; and all those thrones
Were framed of burning chrystal, where appeared
In mingled gleam millions of dazzling hues !

Still, as the valley narrowed to a close,
These thrones increased in grandeur and in glory,
On either side, until the inmost two

Rose so sublimely high, that every arch
Was ample as the compass of that bow
That, on dark cloud, bridges the vales of earth.

The columns seemed ingrained with gold, and branched
With many lustres, whose each single lamp
Shone like the sun as from the earth beheld ;
And each particular column, placed upon
A northern hill, would cap the polar wain.
There sat half shrouded in incessant light
The great Archangels, nighest to the throne
Of the Almighty—for—O dreadful view !
Betwixt these two, closing the lengthened files,
Stood the pavilion of the eternal God !
Himself unseen, in tenfold splendours veiled,
The least unspeakable, so passing bright,

That even the eyes of angels turned thereon
Grow dim, and round them transient darkness swims.

Within the verge of that extended region
Our travellers stood. Farther they could not press,
For round the light and glory threw a pale,
Repellent, but to them invisible ;
Yet myriads were within of purer frame.

Ten thousand thousand messengers arrived
From distant worlds, the missionaries of heaven,
Sent forth to countervail malignant sprites
That roam existence. These gave their report,
Not at the throne, but at the utmost seats
Of these long files of throned seraphims,
By whom the word was passed. Then fast away

Flew the commissioned spirits, to renew
Their watch and guardship in far distant lands.
They saw them, in directions opposite,
To every point of heaven glide away
Like flying stars ; or, far adown the steep,
Gleam like small lines of light.

Now was the word
Given out, from whence they knew not, that all tongues,
Kindreds, and tribes, should join, with one accord,
In hymn of adoration and acclaim,
To him that sat upon the throne of heaven,
Who framed, saved, and redeemed them to himself !

Then all the countless hosts obeisance made,
And, with their faces turned unto the throne,

Stood up erect, while all their coronals
From off their heads, were reverently upborne;
Our earth-born visitant quaked every limb;
The angels touched their harps with gentle hand
As prelude to begin—then, all at once,
With full o'erwhelming swell the strain arose;
And pealing high rolled o'er the throned lists
And tuneful files, as if the sun itself
Welled forth the high and holy symphony!
All heaven beside was mute—the streams stood still
And did not murmur—the light wandering winds
Withheld their motion in the midst of heaven,
Nor stirred the leaf, but hung in breathless trance
Where first the sounds assailed them!—Even the windows
Of God's pavilion seemed to open wide
And drink the harmony!

Few were the strains
The virgin pilgrim heard, for they o'erpowered
Her every sense ; and down she sunk entranced
By too supreme delight, and all to her
Was lost—She saw nor heard not !—It was gone !

Long did she lie beside a cooling spring
In her associate's arms, before she showed
Motion or life—and when she first awoke
It was in dreaming melody—low strains
Half sung half uttered hung upon her breath.

“ O ! is it past ? ” said she ; “ Shall I not hear
That song of heaven again ?—Then all beside
Of being is unworthy—Take me back,
Where I may hear that lay of glory flow,
And die away in it.—My soul shall mix

With its harmonious numbers, and dissolve
In fading cadence at the gates of light."

Back near the borders of that sacred vale
Cautious they journeyed ; and at distance heard
The closing anthem of that great assembly
Of saints and angels.—First the harps awoke
A murmuring tremulous melody, that rose
Now high—now seemed to roll in waves away,
And aye between this choral hymn was sung,
“ O ! holy ! holy ! holy ! just, and true,
Art thou, Lord God Almighty ! thou art he
Who was, and is, and evermore shall be !”
Then every harp, and every voice, at once
Resounded *Haleluiah* ! so sublime,
That all the mountains of the northern heaven,
And they are many, sounded back the strain.

O ! when the voices and the lyres were strained
To the rapt height, the full delirious swell,
Then did the pure elastic mounds of heaven
Quiver and stream with flickering radiance,
Like gossamers along the morning dew.
Still paused the choir, till the last echo crept
Into the distant hill—O it was sweet !
Beyond definement sweet ! and never more
May ear of mortal list such heavenly strains,
While linked to erring frail humanity.

After much holy converse with the saints
And dwellers of the heaven, of that concerned
The ways of God with man, and wonderous truths
But half revealed to him, our sojourners
In holy awe withdrew. And now, no more
By circular and cautious route they moved,

But straight across the regions of the blest,
And storied vales of heaven, did they advance,
On rapt ecstatic wing ; and oft assayed
The seraph's holy hymn. As they past bye,
The angels paused ; and saints, that lay reposed
In bowers of paradise, upraised their heads
To list the passing music ; for it went
Swift as the wild-bee's note, that on the wing
Bombs like unbodied voice along the gale.

At length upon the brink of heaven they stood ;
There lingering, forward on the air they leaned
With hearts elate, to take one parting look
Of nature from its source, and converse hold
Of all its wonders. Not upon the sun,
But on the halo of bright golden air
That fringes it they leaned, and talked so long,

That from contiguous worlds they were beheld
And wondered at as beams of living light.

There all the motions of the ambient spheres
Were well observed, explained, and understood.
All save the mould of that mysterious chain
Which bound them to the sun—that God himself,
And he alone could comprehend or wield.

While thus they stood or lay (for to the eyes
Of all, their posture seemed these two between,
Bent forward on the wind, in graceful guise,
On which they seemed to press, for their fair robes
Were streaming far behind them) there passed bye
A most erratick wandering globe, that seemed
To run with troubled aimless fury on,
The virgin, wondering, inquired the cause
And nature of that roaming meteor world.

When Cēla thus.—“ I can remember well
When yon was such a world as that you left;
A nursery of intellect, for those
Where matter lives not.—Like these other worlds,
It wheeled upon its axle, and it swung
With wide and rapid motion. But the time
That God ordained for its existence run:
Its uses in that beautiful creation,
Where nought subsists in vain, remained no more !
The saints and angels knew of it, and came
In radiant files, with awful reverence,
Unto the verge of heaven where we now stand,
To see the downfall of a sentenced world,
Think of the impetus that urges on
These ponderous spheres, and judge of the event.
Just in the middle of its swift career,
Th’ Almighty snapt the golden cord in twain
That hung it to the heaven—Creation sobbed !

And a spontaneous shriek rang on the hills
Of these celestial regions. Down amain
Into the void the outcast world descended,
Wheeling and thundering on ! Its troubled seas
Were churned into a spray, and, whizzing, flurred
Around it like a dew.—The mountain tops,
And ponderous rocks, were off impetuous flung,
And clattered down the steeps of night for ever.

“ Away into the sunless starless void
Rushed the abandoned world ; and thro’ its caves,
And rifted channels, airs of chaos sung.
The realms of night were troubled—for the stillness
Which there from all eternity had reigned
Was rudely discomposed ; and moaning sounds,
Mixed with a whistling howl, were heard afar
By darkling spirits !—Still with stayless force,

For years and ages, down the wastes of night
Rolled the impetuous mass !—of all its seas
And superficies disencumbered
It boomed along, till by the gathering speed,
Its furnaced mines and hills of walled sulphur
Were blown into a flame—When meteor-like,
Bursting away upon an arching track,
Wide as the universe, again it scaled
The dusky regions.—Long the heavenly hosts
Had deemed the globe extinct—nor thought of it,
Save as an instance of Almighty power :
Judge of their wonder and astonishment,
When far as heavenly eyes can see, they saw
In yon blue void, that hideous world appear !
Showering thin flame, and shining vapour forth
O'er half the breadth of heaven !—The angels paused !
And all the nations trembled at the view.

“ But great is he who rules them !—He can turn
And lead it all unhurtful thro’ the spheres,
Signal of pestilence, or wasting sword,
That ravage and deface humanity.

“ The time will come, when, in likewise, the earth
Shall be cut off from God’s fair universe ;
Its end fulfilled.—But when that time shall be,
From man, from saint, and angel is concealed.”

Here ceased the converse.—To a tale like this
What converse could succeed ?—They turned around,
And kneeling on the brow of heaven, there paid
Due adoration to that holy one,
Who framed and rules the elements of nature.
Then like two swans that far on wing hath scaled
The Alpine heights to gain their native lake,

At length, perceiving far below their eye
The beauteous silvery speck—they slack their wings,
And softly sink adown the incumbent air :
So sunk our lovely pilgrims, from the verge
Of the fair heaven, down the streamered sky ;
Far other scenes, and other worlds to view.

END OF PART SECOND.

THE
PILGRIMS OF THE SUN.

PART THIRD.

PILGRIMS OF THE SUN.

PART THIRD.

PILGRIMS OF THE SUN.

I met a English, of the name of John,
Who from the isles beyond the dawn of morn
To where waste oceans reach Eternity's shore,
Hast from all nations thence thy lonely form
Held of the world, whom none would else obey,
Thou high the human, and though for thy way
Thy path I trace, composed of thy name,
Well may it thus be said that thou art thou.

THE
PILGRIMS OF THE SUN.

PART THIRD.

IMPERIAL England, of the ocean born,
Who from the isles beyond the dawn of morn,
To where waste oceans wash Peruvia's shore,
Hast from all nations drawn thy boasted lore.
Helm of the world, whom seas and isles obey,
Tho' high thy honours, and though far thy sway,
Thy harp I crave, unfearful of thy frown ;
Well may'st thou lend what erst was not thine own.

Come thou old bass—I loved thy lordly swell,
With Dryden's twang, and Pope's malicious knell ;
But now, so sore thy brazen chords are worn,
By peer, by pastor, and by bard forlorn ;
By every grub that harps for venal ore,
And crabbe that grovels on the sandy shore :
I wot not if thy maker's aim has been
A harp, a fiddle, or a tambourine.

Come, leave these lanes and sink beside the sea ;
Come to the silent moorland dale with me ;
And thou shalt pour, along the mountain hoar,
A strain its echoes never waked before ;
Thou shalt be strung where green-wood never grew,
Swept by the winds, and mellowed by the dew.

Sing of the globes our travellers viewed, that lie
Around the Sun, enveloped in the sky ;

Thy music slightly must the veil withdraw,
From lands they visited, and scenes they saw ;
From lands, where love and goodness ever dwell ;
Where famine, blight, or mildew never fell ;
Where face of man is ne'er o'erspread with gloom,
And woman smiles for ever in her bloom :
And thou must sing of wicked worlds beneath,
Where flit the visions, and the hues of death.

The first they saw, though different far the scene,
Compared with that where they had lately been,
To all its dwellers yielded full delight ;
Long was the day, and long and still the night ;
The groves were dark and deep, the waters still ;
The raving streamlets murmured from the hill :
It was the land where faithful lovers dwell,
Beyond the grave's unseemly sentinel ;

Where, free of jealousy, their mortal bane,
And all the ills of sickness and of pain,
In love's delights they bask without alloy ;
The night their transport, and the day their joy.
The broadened sun, in chamber and alcove,
Shines daily on their morning couch of love ;
And in the evening grove, while linnets sing,
And silent bats wheel round on flittering wing,
Still in the dear embrace their souls are lingering.

“ O ! tell me, Cela,” said the earthly maid,
“ Must all these beauteous dames like woman fade ?
In our imperfect world, it is believed
That those who most have loved the most have grieved ;
That love can every power of earth controul,
Can conquer kings, and chain the hero's soul ;

While all the woes and pains that women prove,
Have each their poignance and their source from love;
What law of nature has reversed the doom,
If these may always love, and always bloom?"

"Look round thee, maid beloved, and thou shalt see,
As journeying o'er this happy world with me,
That no decrepitude nor age is here;
No autumn comes the human bloom to sere;
For these have lived in worlds of mortal breath,
And all have past the dreary bourn of death:
Can'st thou not mark their purity of frame,
Though still their forms and features are the same?"

Replied the maid: "No difference I can scan,
Save in the fair meridian port of man,

And woman fresh as roses newly sprung :
If these have died, they all have died when young."

" Thou art as artless as thy heart is good ;
This in thy world is not yet understood ;
But wheresoe'er we wander to and fro,
In heaven above, or in the deep below,
What thou misconstruest I shall well explain,
Be it in angel's walk, or mortal reign,
In sun, moon, stars, in mountain, or in main.

" Know then, that every globe which thou hast seen,
Varied with vallies, seas, and forests green,
Are all conformed, in subtilty of clime,
To beings sprung from out the womb of time ;
And all the living groups, where'er they be,
In worlds which thou hast seen, or thou may'st see,

Wherever sets the eve and dawns the morn,
Are all of mankind—all of woman born.
The globes, from heaven, which most at distance lie,
Are nurseries of life to these so nigh,
In those, the minds for evermore to be,
Must dawn and rise with smiling infancy.

“ Thus 'tis ordained—these grosser regions yield
Souls, thick as blossoms of the vernal field,
Which after death, in relative degree,
Fairer, or darker, as their minds may be,
To other worlds are led, to learn and strive,
Till to perfection all at last arrive.
This once conceived, the ways of God are plain,
But thy unyielding race in errors will remain.

“ These beauteous dames, who glow with love unstained,
Like thee were virgins, but not so remained.

Not to thy sex this sere behest is given ;
They are the garden of the God of heaven ;
Of beauties numberless and woes the heir ;
The tree was reared immortal fruit to bear ;
And she, all selfish chusing to remain,
Nor share of love the pleasures and the pain,
Was made and cherished by her God in vain ;
She sinks into the dust a nameless thing,
No son the requiem o'er her grave to sing.
While she who gives to human beings birth,
Immortal here, is living still on earth ;
Still in her offspring lives, to fade and bloom,
Flourish and spread thro' ages long to come.

“ Now mark me, maiden—why that wistful look ?
Though woman must those pains and passions brook,
Beloved of God, and fairest of his plan,
Note how she smiles, superior still to man ;

As well it her behoves ; for was not he
Lulled on her breast, and nursed upon her knee :
Her foibles and her failings may be rife,
While toiling thro' the snares and ills of life,
But he who framed her nature, knows her pains,
Her heart dependent, and tumultuous veins,
And many faults the world heap on her head,
Will never there be harshly visited.

Proud haughty man, the nursling of her care,
Must more than half her crimes and errors bear ;
If flow'rets droop and fade before their day ;
If others sink neglected in the clay ;
If trees, too rankly earthed, too rathly blow,
And others neither fruit nor blossom know,
Let human reason equal judgment frame,
Is it the flower, the tree, or gardener's blame?

“ Thou see'st them lovely—so they will remain ;
For when the soul and body meet again,
No 'vantage will be held, of age, or time,
United at their fairest fullest prime.
The form when purest, and the soul most sage,
Beauty with wisdom shall have heritage,
The form of comely youth, th' experience of age.

“ When to thy kindred thou shalt this relate,
Of man's immortal and progressive state,
No credit thou wilt gain, for they are blind,
And would, presumptuous, the Eternal bind,
Either perpetual blessings to bestow,
Or plunge the souls he framed in endless woe.

“ This is the land of lovers, known afar,
And named the Evening and the Morning star ;

Oft, with rapt eye, thou hast its rising seen,
Above the holy spires of old Lindeen ;
And marked its tiny beam diffuse a hue
That tinged the paleness of the morning blue ;
Ah ! did'st thou deem it was a land so fair ?
Or that such peaceful 'habitants were there ?

“ See'st thou yon gloomy sphere, thro' vapours dun,
That wades in crimson like the sultry sun ?
There let us bend our course, and mark the fates
Of mighty warriors, and of warriors' mates ;
For there they toil 'mid troubles and alarms,
The drums and trumpets sounding still to arms ;
Till by degrees, when ages are outgone,
And happiness and comfort still unknown,
Like simple babes, the land of peace to win,
The task of knowledge sorrowful begin.

By the enlightened philosophic mind,
More than a thousand ages left behind,

“ O what a world of vanity and strife !
For what avails the stage of mortal life !
If to the last the fading frame is worn,
The same unknowing creature it was born !
Where shall the spirit rest ! where shall it go !
Or how enjoy a bliss it does not know ?
It must be taught in darkness and in pain,
Or beg the bosom of a child again.
Knowledge of all, avails the human kind,
For all beyond the grave are joys of mind.”

So swift and so untroubled was their flight,
’Twas like the journey of a dream by night ;

And scarce had Mary ceased, with thought sedate,
To muse on woman's sacred estimate,
When on the world of warriors they alight,
Just on the confines of its day and night ;
The purple light was waning west away,
And shoally darkness gained upon the day.

“ I love that twilight,” said the pilgrim fair,
“ For more than earthly solemnness is there.
See how the rubied waters winding roll ;
A hoary doubtful hue involves the pole !
Uneasy murmurs float upon the wind,
And tenfold darkness rears its shades behind !

“ And lo ! where, wrapt in deep vermilion shroud,
The daylight slumbers on the western cloud !

I love the scene !—O let us onward steer,
The light our steeds, the wind our charioteer !
And on the downy cloud impetuous hurled,
We'll with the twilight ring this warrior world !"

Along, along, along the nether sky !
The light before, the wreathed darkness nigh !
Along, along, thro' evening vapours blue,
Thro' tinted air, and racks of drizzly dew,
The twain pursued their way, and heard afar
The moans and murmurs of the dying war ;
The neigh of battle-steeds by field and wall,
That missed their generous comrades of the stall,
Which, all undaunted, in the ranks of death,
Yielded, they knew not why, their honest breath ;
And, far behind, the hill-wolf's hunger yell,
And watchword past from drowsy sentinel.

Along, along, thro' mind's unwearied range,
It flies to the vicissitudes of change.
Our pilgrims of the twilight weary grew,
Transcendent was the scene, but never new ;
They wheeled their rapid chariot from the light,
And pierced the bosom of the hideous night.

So thick the darkness, and its veil so swarth,
All hues were gone of heaven and of the earth !
The watch-fire scarce like gilded glow-worm seemed ;
No moon nor star along the concave beamed !
Without a halo flaming meteors flew ;
Scarce did they shed a sullen sulphury blue ;
Whizzing they past, by folded vapours crossed,
And in a sea of darkness soon were lost.

Like pilgrim birds that o'er the ocean fly,
When lasting night and polar storms are nigh,

Enveloped in a rayless atmosphere,
By northern shores uncertain course they steer;
O'er thousand darkling billows flap the wing,
Till far is heard the welcome murmuring
Of mountain waves, o'er waste of waters tossed,
In fleecy thunder fall on Albyn's coast.

So passed the pilgrims through impervious night,
Till, in a moment, rose before their sight
A bound impassable of burning levin !
A wall of flame, that reached from earth to heaven !
It was the light, shed from the bloody sun,
In bootless blaze upon that cloud so dun ;
Its gloom was such as not to be oppressed,
That those perturbed spirits might have rest.

Now ope'd a scene, before but dimly seen,
A world of pride, of havock, and of spleen ;

A world of scathed soil, and sultry air ;
For industry and culture was not there ;
The hamlets smoked in ashes on the plain,
The bones of men were bleaching in the rain,
And, piled in thousands, on the trenched heath,
Stood warriors bent on vengeance and on death.

“ Ah !” said the youth, “ we timely come to spy
A scene momentous, and a sequel high !
For late arrived, on this disquiet coast,
A fiend, that in Tartarian gulf was tossed,
And held in tumult, and commotion fell,
The gnashing legions through the bounds of hell,
For ages past—but now, by heaven’s decree,
The prelude of some dread event to be,
Is hither sent like desolating brand,
The scourge of God, the terror of the land !

He seems the passive elements to guide,
And stars in courses fight upon his side.

“ On yon high mountain will we rest, and see
The omens of the times that are to be ;
For all the wars of earth, and deeds of weir,
Are first performed by warrior spirits here ;
So linked are souls by one eternal chain,
What these perform, those needs must do again ;
And thus th’ Almighty weighs each kingdom’s date,
Each warrior’s fortune, and each warrior’s fate,
Making the future time with that has been,
Work onward, rolling like a vast machine.”

They sat them down on hills of Alpine form,
Above the whirlwind and the thunder storm ;

For in that land contiguous to the sun,
The elements in wild obstruction run ;
They saw the bodied flame the cloud impale,
Then river like fleet down the sultry dale.
While, basking in the sun-beam, high they lay,
The hill was swathed in dark unseemly gray ;
The downward rainbow hung across the rain,
And leaned its glowing arch upon the plain.

While thus they staid, they saw in wonderous wise,
Armies and kings from out the cloud arise ;
They saw great hosts and empires over-run,
War's wild extreme, and kingdoms lost and won ;
The whole of that this age has lived to see,
With battles of the east long hence to be,
They saw distinct and plain, as human eye
Discerns the forms and objects passing bye.

Long yet the time, ere wasting war shall cease,
And all the world have liberty and peace !

The pilgrims moved not—word they had not said,
While this mysterious boding vision staid ;
But now the virgin, with disturbed eye,
Besought solution of the prodigy.

“ These all are future kings of earthly fame ;
That wolfish fiend, from hell that hither came,
Over thy world, in ages yet to be,
Must desolation spread and slavery,
'Till nations learn to know their estimate :
To be unanimous is to be great !
When right's own standard calmly is unfurled,
The people are the sovereigns of the world !

“ Like one machine a nation’s governing,
And that machine must have a moving spring,
But of what mould that moving spring should be,
’Tis the high right of nations to decree.
This mankind must be taught, though millions bleed,
That knowledge, truth, and liberty, may spread.”

“ What meant the vision ’mid the darksome cloud ;
Some spirits rose as from unearthly shroud,
And joined their warrior brethren of the free ;
Two souls inspired each, and some had three ?”

“ These were the spirits of their brethren slain,
Who, thus permitted, rose and breathed again ;
For still let reason this high truth recal,
The body’s but a mould, the soul is all ;
Those triple minds that all before them hurled,
Are called Silesians in this warrior world.”

“ O tell me, Cela, when shall be the time,
That all the restless spirits of this clime,
Erring so widely in the search of bliss,
Shall win a milder happier world than this ?”

“ Not till they learn, with humbled hearts, to see
The falsehood of their fuming vanity.

What is the soldier but an abject fool !

A king's, a tyrant's, or a stateman's tool !

Some patriot few there are—but ah ! how rare !

For vanity or interest still is there ;

Or blindfold levity directs his way ;

A licenced murderer that kills for pay !

Though fruitless ages thus be overpast,

Truth, love, and knowledge, must prevail at last !”

The pilgrims left that climate with delight,

Weary of battle and portentous sight.

It boots not all their wanderings to relate,
By globes immense, and worlds subordinate ;
For still my strain in mortal guise must flow,
Though swift as winged angels they might go ;
The palled mind would meet no kind relay,
And dazzled fancy 'wilder by the way.

They found each clime with mental joys replete,
And all for which its 'habitants were meet.
They saw a watery world of sea and shore,
Where the rude sailor swept the flying oar,
And drove his bark like lightning o'er the main,
Proud of his prowess, of her swiftness vain ;
Held revel on the shore with stormy glee,
Or sung his boisterous carol on the sea.

They saw the land where bards delighted stray,
And beauteous maids that love the melting lay ;

One mighty hill they clomb with earnest pain,
For ever clomb, but higher did not gain ;
Their gladsome smiles were mixed with frowns severe ;
For all were bent to sing and none to hear.

Far in the gloom they found a world accursed,
Of all the globes the dreariest and the worst !
But there they could not sojourn, though they would,
For all the language was of mystic mood,
A jargon, nor conceived, nor understood ;
It was of deeds, respondents, and replies,
Dark quibbles, forms, and condescendencies ;
And they would argue, with vociferous breath,
For months and days, as if the point were death,
And when at last enforced to agree,
'Twas only how the argument should be !

They saw the land of bedesmen discontent,
Their frames their god, their tithes their testament !

And snarling critics bent with aspect sour,
T' applaud the great, and circumvent the poor ;
And knowing patriots, with important face,
Raving aloud with gesture and grimace,
Their prize a land's acclaim, or proud and gainful place.
Then by a land effeminate they passed,
Where silks and odours floated in the blast ;
A land of vain and formal compliment,
Where won the flippant belles, and beaux magnificent.

They circled nature on their airy wain,
From God's own throne, unto the realms of pain ;
For there are prisons in the deep below,
Where wickedness sustains proportioned woe,
Nor more nor less ; for the Almighty still
Suits to our life the goodness and the ill.

O ! it would melt the living heart with woe,
Were I to sing the agonies below ;
The hatred nursed by those who cannot part ;
The hardened brow, the seared and sullen heart ;
The still defenceless look, the stifled sigh,
The writhed lip, the staid despairing eye,
Which ray of hope may never lighten more,
Which cannot shun, yet dares not look before.
O ! these are themes reflection would forbear,
Unfitting bard to sing, or maid to hear ;
Yet these they saw, in downward realms prevail,
And listened many a sufferer's hapless tale,
Who all allowed that rueful misbelief
Had proved the source of their eternal grief ;
And all th' Almighty punisher arraigned
For keeping back that knowledge they disdained.

“ Ah !” Cela said, as up the void they flew,
“ The axiom’s just—the inference is true ;
Therefore no more let doubts thy mind enthrall,
Thro’ natures range thou seest a God in all :
Where is the mortal law that can restrain
The athiest’s heart, that broods o’er thoughts profane ?
Soon fades the soul’s and virtue’s dearest tie,
When all the future closes from the eye.”
By all, the earth-born virgin plainly saw
Nature’s unstaidd, unalterable law ;
That human life is but the infant stage
Of a progressive, endless pilgrimage,
To woe, or state of bliss, by bard unsung,
At that eternal fount where being sprung,

When these wild wanderings all were past and done,
Just in the red beam of the parting sun,

Our pilgrims skimmed along the light of even,
Like flitting stars that cross the nightly heaven,
And lighting on the verge of Phillip plain,
They trode the surface of the world again.

Arm linked in arm, they walked to green Bowhill;
At their approach the woods and lawns grew still!
The little birds to brake and bush withdrew,
The merl away unto Blackandro flew;
The twilight held its breath in deep suspense,
And looked its wonder in mute eloquence!

They reached the bower, where first at Mary's knee,
Cela arose her guide through heaven to be.
All, all was still—no living thing was seen!
No human footstep marked the daisied green!
The youth looked round, as something were unmeet,
Or wanting there, to make their bliss complete.

They paused—they sighed—then with a silent awe,
Walked onward to the halls of Carelha'.

They heard the squires and yeomen, all intent,
Talking of some mysterious event !

They saw the maidens in dejection mourn,

Scarce daring glance unto a yeoman turn !

Straight to the inner chamber they repair,

Mary beheld her widowed mother there,

Flew to her arms, to kiss her and rejoice ;

Alas ! she saw her not, nor heard her voice !

But sat unmoved with many a bitter sigh,

Tears on her cheek, and sorrow in her eye !

In sable weeds, her lady form was clad,

And the white lawn waved mournful round her head !

Mary beheld, arranged in order near,

The very robes she last on earth did wear,

And shrinking from the disregarded kiss ;

“ Oh, tell me Cela !—tell me, what is this ?”

“ Fair maiden of the pure and guileless heart,

As yet thou knowest not how, nor what thou art ;

Come, I will lead thee to yon hoary pile,

Where sleep thy kindred in their storied isle :

There I must leave thee, in this world below ;

’Tis meet thy land these holy truths should know :

But Mary, yield not thou to bootless pain,

Soon we shall meet, and never part again.”

He took her hand, she dared not disobey,

But, half reluctant, followed him away.

They paced along on Ettrick’s margin green,

And reached the hoary fane of old Lindeen ;

It was a scene to curdle maiden’s blood !

The massy church-yard gate wide open stood !

The stars were up!—the valley steeped in dew!
The baleful bat in silent circles flew!
No sound was heard, except the lonely rail,
Harping his ordinal adown the dale;
And soft, and slow, upon the breezes light,
The rush of Ettrick breathed along the night!
Dark was the pile, and green the tombs beneath!
And dark the gravestones on the sward of death!

Within the railed space appeared to view,
A grave new opened—thitherward they drew;
And there beheld, within its mouldy womb!
A living, moving tenant of the tomb!
It was an aged monk, uncouth to see,
Who held a sheeted corse upon his knee,
And busy, busy, with the form was he!
At their approach he uttered howl of pain,
Till echoes groaned it from the holy fane,

Then fled amain—Ah ! Cela too, is gone !

And Mary stands within the grave alone !

With her fair guide, her robes of heaven are fled,

And round her fall the garments of the dead !

Here I must seize my ancient harp again,

And chaunt a simple tale, a most uncourtly strain.

END OF PART THIRD.

THE
PILGRIMS OF THE SUN.

PART FOURTH.

PLICHAIR OF THE SUN

PLICHAIR OF THE SUN

The night-wind is whispering the story
That the day of the future is not far off
The day of the future is not far off

Beyond the grey clouds of the sea
On the red battle-field of the sky
There are many a brave heart
That day of the future is not far off

The night-wind is whispering the story
That the day of the future is not far off
The day of the future is not far off

THE
PILGRIMS OF THE SUN.

PART FOURTH.

THE night-wind is sleeping—the forest is still,
The blair of the heath-cock has sunk in the hill,
Beyond the gray cairn of the moor is his rest,
On the red heather bloom he has pillowed his breast ;
There soon with his note the gray dawning he'll cheer,
But Mary of Carel' that note will not hear !

The night-wind is still, and the moon in the wane,
The river-lark sings on the verge of the plain ;

So lonely his plaint, by the motionless reed,
It sounds like an omen or tale of the dead ;
Like a warning of death, it falls on the ear
Of those who are wandering the woodlands in fear ;
For the maidens of Carelha' wander, and cry
On their young lady's name, with the tear in their eye.
The gates had been shut, and the mass had been sung,
But Mary was missing, the beauteous and young ;
And she had been seen in the evening still,
By woodman, alone, in the groves of Bowhill.

O were not these maidens in terror and pain !
They knew the third night of the moon in the wane !
They knew on that night that the spirits were free ;
That revels of fairies were held on the lea ;
And heard their small bugles, with eirysome croon,
As lightly they rode on the beam of the moon !

O ! woe to the wight that abides their array !

And woe to the maiden that comes in their way !

The maidens returned all hopeless and wan ;

The yeomen they rode, and the pages they ran ;

The Ettrick and Yarrow they searched up and down,

The hamlet, the cot, and the old borough town ;

And thrice the bedesman renewed the host,

But the dawn returned and Mary was lost !

Her lady mother, distracted and wild,

For the loss of her loved, her only child,

With all her maidens tracked the dew—

Well Mary's secret bower she knew !

Oft had she traced, with fond regard,

Her darling to that grove, and heard

Her orisons the green bough under,
And turned aside with fear and wonder.

O ! but their hearts were turned to stone,
When they saw her stretched on the sward alone ;
Prostrate, without a word or motion,
As if in calm and deep devotion !
They called her name with trembling breath ;
But ah ! her sleep was the sleep of death !
They laid their hands on her cheek composed ;
But her cheek was cold and her eye was closed.
They laid their hands upon her breast,
But the playful heart had sunk to rest ;
And they raised an eldrich wail of sorrow,
That startled the hinds on the braes of Yarrow.

And yet, when they viewed her comely face,
Each line remained of beauty and grace ;

No death-like features it disclosed,
For the lips were met, and the eyes were closed.
'Twas pale—but the smile was on the cheek;
'Twas modelled all as in act to speak!
It seemed as if each breeze that blew,
The play of the bosom would renew;
As nature's momentary strife
Would wake that form to beauty and life.

It is borne away with fear and awe
To the lordly halls of Carelha',
And lies on silken couch at rest—
The mother there is constant guest,
For hope still lingers in her breast.

O ! seraph Hope ! that here below
Can nothing dear to the last forego !

When we see the forms we fain would save
Wear step by step adown to the grave,
Still hope a lambent gleam will shed,
Over the last, the dying bed.
And even, as now, when the soul's away,
It flutters and lingers o'er the clay !
O Hope ! thy range was never expounded !
'Tis not by the grave that thou art bounded !

The leech's art, and the bedesman's prayer,
Are all misspent—no life is there !
Between her breasts they dropped the lead,
And the cord in vain begirt her head ;
Yet still on that couch her body lies,
Though another moon has claimed the skies.
For once the lykewake maiden's saw,
As the dawn arose on Carelha',

A movement soft the sheets within,
And a gentle shivering of the chin !

All earthly hope at last outworn,
The body to the tomb was borne ;
The last pale flowers in the grave were flung ;
The mass was said, and the requiem sung ;
And the turf that was ever green to be,
Lies over the dust of Mary Lee.

Deep fell the eve on old Lindeen !
Loud creaked the rail in the clover green !
The new moon from the west withdrew.—
O ! well the monk of Lindeen knew
That Mary's winding-sheet was lined
With many fringe of the gold refined !
That in her bier behoved to be
A golden cross and a rosary ;

Of pearl beads full many a string,
And on every finger a diamond ring,
The holy man no scruples staid ;
For within that grave was useless laid
Riches that would a saint entice ;—
'Twas worth a convent's benefice !

He took the spade, and away he is gone
To the church-yard, darkling and alone ;
His brawny limbs the grave bestride,
And he shovelled the mools and the bones aside ;
Of the dust, nor the dead, he stood not in fear,
But he stooped in the grave and he opened the bier ;
And he took the jewels, of value high,
And he took the cross, and the rosary,
And the golden heart on the lid that shone,
And he laid them carefully on a stone.

Then down in the depth of the grave sat he,
And he raised the corpse upon his knee ;
But in vain to gain the rings he strove,
For the hands were cold, and they would not move.
He drew a knife from his baldrick gray,
To cut the rings and fingers away.

He gave one cut—he gave but one—
It scarcely reached unto the bone :
Just then the soul, so long exiled,
Returned again from its wanderings wild ;
By the stars and the sun it ceased to roam,
And entered its own, its earthly home.
Loud shrieked the corse at the wound he gave,
And rising, stood up in the grave.

The hoary thief was chilled at heart
Scarce had he power left to depart ;

For horror thrilled through every vein ;
He did not cry, but he roared amain ;
For hues of dread and death were rife
On the face of the form he had woke to life :
His reason fled from off her throne,
And never more dawned thereupon.

Aloud she called her Cela's name,
And the echoes called, but no Cela came !
O ! much she marvelled that he had gone,
And left her thus in the grave alone.
She knew the place, and the holy dome ;
Few moments hence she had thither come ;
And thro' the hues of the night she saw
The woods and towers of Carelha'.
'Twas mystery all—She did not ween
Of the state or the guise in which she had been ;

She did not ween that while travelling afar,
Away by the sun and the morning star,
By the moon, and the cloud, and aerial bow,
That her body was left on the earth below.

But now she stood in grievous plight ;
The ground was chilled with the dew's of the night ;
Her frame was cold and ill at rest,
The dead-rose waved upon her breast ;
Her feet were coiled in the sheet so wan,
And fast from her hand the red blood ran.

'Twas late, late on a Sabbath night !
At the hour of the ghost, and the restless sprite !
The mass at Carelha' had been read,
And all the mourners were bound to bed,

When a foot was heard on the paved floor,
And a gentle rap came to the door.

O God! that such a rap should be
So fraught with ambiguity!
A dim haze clouded every sight;
Each hair had life and stood upright;
No sound was heard throughout the hall,
But the beat of the heart and the cricket's call;
So deep the silence imposed by fear,
That a vacant buzz sung in the ear.

The lady of Carelha' first broke
The breathless hush, and thus she spoke.
" Christ be our shield!—who walks so late,
And knocks so gently at my gate?

I felt a pang—it was not dread—
It was the memory of the dead !
O ! death is a dull and dreamless sleep !
The mould is heavy, the grave is deep !
Else I had weened that foot so free
The step and the foot of my Mary Lee !
And I had weened that gentle knell
From the light hand of my daughter fell !
The grave is deep, it may not be !
Haste porter—haste to the door and see.”

He took the key with an eye of doubt,
He lifted the lamp and he looked about ;
His lips a silent prayer addressed,
And the cross was signed upon his breast ;
Thus mailed within the armour of God,
All ghostly to the door he strode.

He wrenched the bolt with grating din,
He lifted the latch—but none came in !
He thrust out his lamp, and he thrust out his head,
And he saw the face and the robes of the dead !
One sob he heaved, and tried to fly,
But he sunk on the earth, and the form came bye.

She entered the hall, she stood in the door,
Till one by one dropt on the floor,
The blooming maiden, and matron old,
The friar gray, and the yeoman bold.
It was like a scene on the Border green,
When the arrows fly and pierce unseen ;
And nought was heard within the hall,
But Aves, vows, and groans withal.
The lady of Carel' stood alone,
But moveless as a statue of stone.

“ O ! lady mother, thy fears forego ;
Why all this terror and this woe ?
But late when I was in this place,
Thou would'st not look me in the face ;
O ! why do you blench at sight of me ?
I am thy own child, thy Mary Lee.”

“ I saw thee dead and cold as clay ;
I watched thy corpse for many a day ;
I saw thee laid in the grave at rest ;
I strewed the flowers upon thy breast ;
And I saw the mould heaped over thee—
Thou art not my child, my Mary Lee.”

O'er Mary's face amazement spread ;
She knew not that she had been dead ;

She gazed in mood irresolute :

Both stood agast, and both were mute.

“ Speak thou loved form—*my* glass is run,
I nothing dread beneath the sun,
Why come'st thou in thy winding-sheet,
Thy life-blood streaming to thy feet ?
The grave-rose that my own hands made,
I see upon thy bosom spread ;
The kerchief that my own hands bound,
I see still tied thy temples round ;
The golden rings, and bracelet bands,
Are still upon thy bloody hands.
From earthly hope all desperate driven,
I nothing fear beneath high heaven ;
Give me thy hand and speak to me,
If thou art indeed my Mary Lee.

That mould is sensible and warm,
It leans upon a parent's arm.
The kiss is sweet, and the tears are sheen,
And kind are the words that pass between;
They cling as never more to sunder,
O! that embrace was fraught with wonder!

Yeoman, and maid, and menial poor,
Upraised their heads from the marble floor;
With lengthened arm, and forward stride,
They tried if that form their touch would bide;
They felt her warm!—they heard!—they saw
And marve' reigns in Carelha'!

The twain into their chamber repair;
The wounded hand is bound with care;

And there the mother heard with dread
The whole that I to you have said,
Of all the worlds where she had been,
And of all the glories she had seen.
I pledge no word that all is true,
The virgin's tale I have told to you ;
But well 'tis vouched, by age and worth,
'Tis real that relates to earth.

'Twas trowed by every Border swain,
The vision would full credence gain.
Certes 'twas once by all believed,
Till one great point was misconceived ;
For the mass-men said, with fret and frown,
That thro' all space it well was known,
By moon, or stars, the earth or sea,
An up and down there needs must be ;

This error caught their minds in thrall ;
'Twas dangerous and apocryphal !
And this nice fraud unhinged all.
So grievous is the dire mischance
Of priest-craft and of ignorance !

Belike thou now can'st well foresee,
What after hap'd to Mary Lee—
Then thou may'st close my legend here.
But ah ! the tale to some is dear !
For though her name no more remains,
Her blood yet runs in Minstrel veins.

In Mary's youth, no virgin's face
Wore such a sweet and moving grace ;
Nor ever did maiden's form more fair
Lean forward to the mountain air ;

But now, since from the grave returned,
So dazzling bright her beauty burned,
The eye of man could scarcely brook
With steady gaze thereon to look :
Such was the glow of her cheek and eyes,
She bloomed like the rose of paradise !

Though blyther than she erst had been,
In serious mood she oft was seen.
When rose the sun o'er mountain grey,
Her vow was breathed to the east away ;
And when low in the west he burned,
Still there her duteous eye was turned,
For she saw that the flowerets of the glade
To him unconscious worship paid ;
She saw them ope their breasts by day,
And follow his enlivening ray,

Then fold them up in grief by night,
Till the return of the blessed light.
When daylight in the west fell low,
She heard the woodland music flow,
Like farewell song, with sadness blent,
A soft and sorrowful lament ;
But when the sun rose from the sea,
O ! then the birds from every tree
Poured forth their hymn of holiest glee !
She knew that the wandering spirits of wrath
Fled from his eye to their homes beneath,
But when the God of glory shone
On earth, from his resplendent throne,
In valley, mountain, or in grove,
Then all was life, and light, and love.
She saw the new born infant's eye
Turned to that light incessantly ;

Nor ever was that eye withdrawn
Till the mind thus carved began to dawn.
All Nature worshipped at one shrine,
Nor knew that the impulse was divine.

The Chiefs of the Forest the strife begin,
Intent this lovely dame to win ;
But the living lustre of her eye
Balked every knight's pretensions high ;
Abashed they sunk before her glance,
Nor farther could their claims advance ;
Though love thrilled every heart with pain,
They did not ask, and they could not gain.

There came a Harper out of the east ;
A courteous and a welcome guest

In every lord and baron's tower ;
He struck his harp of wond'rous power ;
So high his art, that all who heard
Seemed by some magic spell ensnared ;
For every heart, as he desired,
Was thrilled with woe—with ardour fired ;
Roused to high deeds his might above,
Or soothed to kindness and to love.
No one could learn from whence he came,
But Hugo of Norroway hight his name.

One day, when every Baron came,
And every maid, and noble dame,
To list his high and holy strain
Within the choir of Melrose fane,
The lady of Carelha' joined the band,
And Mary, the flower of all the land.

The strain rose soft—the strain fell low—
O! every heart was steeped in woe!
Again as it pealed a swell so high,
The round drops stood in every eye;
And the aisles and the spires of the hallowed fane,
And the caves of Eildon, sung it again.

O Mary Lee is sick at heart!
That pang no tongue can ever impart!
It was not love, nor joy, nor woe,
Nor thought of heaven, nor earth below;
'Twas all conjoined in gleam so bright—
A poignant feeling of delight!
The throes of a heart that sought its rest,
Its stay—its home in another's breast!
Ah! she had heard that holy strain
In a land she hoped to see again!

And seen that calm benignant eye
Above the spheres and above the sky !
And though the strain her soul had won,
She yearned for the time that it was done,
To greet the singer in language bland,
And call him Cela, and clasp his hand.

It was yon ancient tombs among
That Mary glided from the throng,
Smiled in the fair young stranger's face,
And proffered her hand with courteous grace.
He started aloof—he bent his eye—
He stood in a trance of ecstasy !
He blessed the power that had impelled
Him onward till he that face beheld ;
For he knew his bourn was gained at last,
And all his wanderings then were past.

She called him Cela, and made demand
Anent his kindred, and his land ;
But his hand upon his lip he laid,
He lifted his eye, and he shook his head !
No—Hugo of Norroway is my name,
Ask not from whence or how I came :
But since ever memory's ray was borne
Within this breast of joy forlorn,
I have sought for thee, and only thee ;
For I ween thy name is Mary Lee.
My heart and soul with thine are blent,
My very being's element—
O ! I have wonders to tell to thee,
If thou art the virgin Mary Lee !

The border chiefs were all amazed,
They stood at distance round and gazed ;

They knew her face he never had seen,
But they heard not the words that past between.
They thought of the power that had death beguiled ;
They thought of the grave, and the vision wild !
And they found that human inference failed ;
That all in mystery was veiled ;
And they shunned the twain in holy awe.
The flower of the forest, and Carelha',
Are both by the tuneful stranger won,
And a new existence is begun.

Sheltered amid his mountains afar,
He kept from the bustle of Border war ;
For he loved not the field of foray and scathe,
Nor the bow, nor the shield, nor the sword of death ;
But he tuned his harp in the wild unseen,
And he reared his flocks on the mountain green.

He was the foremost the land to free
Of the hart, and the hind, and the forest tree ;
The first who attuned the pastoral reed
On the mountains of Ettrick, and braes of Tweed ;
The first who did to the land impart
The shepherd's rich and peaceful art,
To bathe the fleece, to cherish the dam,
To milk the ewe, and to wean the lamb ;
And all the joys ever since so rife
In the shepherd's simple, romantic life.
More bliss, more joy, from him had birth,
Than all the conquerors of the earth.

They lived in their halls of Carelha'
Until their children's sons they saw ;
There Mary closed a life refined
To purity of soul and mind,

And at length was laid in old Lindeen,
In the very grave where she erst had been.
Five gallant sons upbore her bier,
And honoured her memory with a tear ;
And her stone, though now full old and grey,
Is known by the hinds unto this day.

From that time forth, on Ettrick's shore,
Old Hugo the harper was seen no more !
Some said he died as the morning rose ;
But his body was lost ere the evening close !
He was not laid in old Lindeen ;
For his grave nor his burial never were seen !

Some said that eve a form they saw
Arise from the tower of Carelha'

Aslant the air, and hover a while
Above the spires of the hallowed pile,
Then sail away in a snow-white shroud,
And vanish afar in the eastern cloud.

But others deemed that his grave was made
By hands unseen in the greenwood glade.
Certes that in one night there grew
A little mound of an ashen hue,
And some remains of gravel lay
Mixed with the sward at the break of day ;
But the hind past bye with troubled air,
For he knew not what might be slumbering there :
And still above that mound there grows,
Yearly, a wond'rous fairy rose.

Beware that cairn and dark green ring!
For the elves of eve have been heard to sing
Around that grave with eldritch croon,
Till trembled the light of the waning moon!
And from that cairn, at midnight deep,
The shepherd has heard from the mountain steep
Arise such a mellowed holy strain
As if the Minstrel had woke again!

Late there was seen, on summer tide,
A lovely form that wont to glide
Round green Bowhill, at the fall of even',
So like an angel sent from heaven,
That all the land believed and said
Their Mary Lee was come from the dead;
For since that time no form so fair
Had ever moved in this earthly air:

And whenever that beauteous shade was seen
To visit the walks of the forest green,
The joy of the land ran to excess,
For they knew that it boded them happiness ;
Peace, love, and truth, for ever smiled
Around that genius of the wild.

Ah me ! there is omen of deep dismay,
For that saintlike form has vanished away !
I have watched her walks by the greenwood glade,
And the mound where the Harper of old was laid ;
I have watched the bower where the woodbine blows,
And the fairy ring, and the wonderous rose,
And all her haunts by Yarrow's shore,
But the heavenly form I can see no more !
She comes not now our land to bless,
Or to cherish the poor and the fatherless,

Who lift to heaven the tearful eye
Bewailing their loss—and well may I!
I little weened when I struck the string,
In fancy's wildest mood to sing,
That sad and low the strain should close,
'Mid real instead of fancied woes!

THE END.

SUPERSTITION.

APPENDIX

CONTENTS

I. List of names of the persons who have been

in the service of the Government of the

State of New York, from 1784 to 1884.

The names are arranged in alphabetical

order, and are given in full, with the

dates of their appointment and of their

discharge, when known.

A list of the names of the persons who

have been appointed to the office of

SUPERSTITION.

1.

IN Caledonia's glens there once did reign

A Sovereign of supreme unearthly eye ;

No human power her potence could restrain,

No human soul her influence deny :

Sole Empress o'er the mountain homes, that lie

Far from the busy world's unceasing stir :

But gone is her mysterious dignity,

And true Devotion wanes away with her ;

While in loose garb appears Corruption's harbinger.

2.

Thou sceptic leveller—ill-framed with thee

Is visionary bard a war to wage :

Joy in thy light thou earth-born Saducee,

That earth is all thy hope and heritage :

Already wears thy front the line of age ;

Thou see'st a heaven above—a grave before ;

Does that lone cell thy wishes all engage ?

Say, does thy yearning soul not grasp at more ?

Woe to thy grovelling creed—thy cold ungenial lore !

3.

Be mine to sing of visions that have been,

And cherish hope of visions yet to be ;

Of mountains clothed in everlasting green,

Of silver torrent and of shadowy tree,

Far in the ocean of eternity.

Be mine the faith that spurns the bourn of time ;

The soul whose eye can future glories see ;

The converse here with things of purer clime,

And hope above the stars that soars on wing sublime.

4.

But she is gone that thrilled the simple minds

Of those I loved and honoured to the last ;

She who gave voices to the wandering winds,

And mounted spirits on the midnight blast :

At her behest the trooping fairies past,

And wayward elves in many a glimmering band ;

The mountains teemed with life, and sore aghast

Stood maid and matron 'neath her mystic wand,

When all the spirits rose and walked at her command.

5.

And she could make the brown and careless boy
All breathless stand, unknowing what to fear;
Or panting deep beneath his co'erlet lie,
When midnight whisper stole upon his ear.
And she could mould the vision of the seer
To aught that rankled breast of froward wight;
Or hang the form of cerement or of bier
Within the cottage fire—O woful sight!
That called forth many a prayer and deepened groan by
night.

6.

O! I have bowed to her resistless sway,
When the thin evening vapours floated nigh;
When the grey plover's wailings died away,
And the tall mountains melted into sky;

The note of gloaming bee that journeyed bye
 Sent thro' my heart a momentary knell ;
 And sore I feared in bush or brake might lie
 Things of unearthly make—for I knew well
 That hour with danger fraught more than when midnight
 fell.

7.

But O ! if ancient cemetry was near,
 Or cairn of harper murdered long ago,
 Or wandering pedlar for his hoarded gear,
 Of such, what glen of Scotland doth not know ?
 Or grave of suicide (upon the brow
 Of the bleak mountain) withered all and grey ;
 From these I held as from some deadly foe :
 There have I quaked by night and mused by day ;
 But chiefly where I weened the bard or warrior lay.

8.

For many a wild heart-thrilling Scottish bard,
In lowland dale the lyre of heaven that wooed,
Sleeps 'neath some little mound or lonely sward,
Where humble dome of rapt devotion stood;
'Mid heathy wastes by Mary's silent flood,
Or in the moorland glen of dark Buccleuch;
There o'er their graves the heath-fowl's mottled brood,
Track with light feathery foot the morning dew;
There plays the gamesome lamb, or bleats the yeanning
ewe.

9.

Yet, there still meet the thoughtful shepherd's view
The marble fount-stone, and the rood so grey;
And often there he sees with changeful hue
The snow-white scull washed by the burn away;

And O ! if 'tis his chance at eve to stray,
 Lone by the place where his forefathers sleep ;
 At bittern's whoop or gor-cock's startling bay,
 How heaves his simple breast with breathings deep ;
 He mutters vow to heaven, and speeds along the steep.

10.

For well he knows, along that desert room,
 The spirits nightly watch the sacred clay ;
 That, cradled on the mountain's purple bloom,
 By him they lie companions of the day,
 His guardian friends, and listening to his lay :
 And many a chaunt floats on the vacant air,
 That spirit of the bard or warrior may
 Hear the forgotten names perchance they bare :
 For many a warrior wight, and nameless bard lies there !

11.

Those were the times for holiness of frame ;
Those were the days when fancy wandered free ;
That kindled in the soul the mystic flame,
And the rapt breathings of high poesy ;
Sole empress of the twilight—Woe is me !
That thou and all thy spectres are outworn ;
For true devotion wanes away with thee.
All thy delirious dreams are laughed to scorn,
While o'er our hills has dawned a cold saturnine morn.

12.

Long did thy fairies linger in the wild,
When vale and city wholly were resigned ;
Where hoary cliffs o'er little holms were piled,
And torrents sung their music to the wind :

The darksome heaven upon the hills reclined,
 Save when a transient sun-beam, thro' the rain,
 Past like some beauteous phantom of the mind
 Leaving the hind in solitude again—
 These were their last retreats, and heard their parting strain.

13.

But every vice effeminate has sped,
 Fast as the spirits from our hills have gone,
 And all these light unbodied forms are fled,
 Or good or evil, save the ghost alone.
 True, when the kine are lowing in the lone,
 An evil eye may heinous mischief brew ;
 But deep enchantments to the wise are known,
 That certainly the blasted herd renew,
 And make the eldron crone her cantrips sorely rue.

14.

O! I have seen the door most closely barred ;

The green turf fire where stuck was many a pin ;

The rhymes of incantation I have heard,

And seen the black dish solemnly laid in

Amid the boiling liquid—Was it sin ?

Ah ! no—'twas all in fair defence of right.

With big drops hanging at her brow and chin,

Soon comes the witch in sad and woeful plight ;

Is cut above the breath, and yelling takes her flight !!

15.

And I have seen, in gaunt and famished guise,

The brindled mouser of the cot appear ;

A haggard wildness darted from her eyes :

No marvel was it when the truth you hear !

That she is forced to carry neighbour near,
 Swift thro' the night to countries far away ;
 That still her feet the marks of travel bear ;
 And her broad back that erst was sleek and grey,
 O ! hapless beast !—all galled where the curst saddle lay !

16.

If every creed has its attendant ills,
 How slight were thine !—a train of airy dreams !
 No holy awe the cynic's bosom thrills ;
 Be mine the faith diverging to extremes !
 What, though upon the moon's distempered beams,
 Erewhile thy matrons galloped thro' the heaven,
 Floated like feather on the foaming streams,
 Or raised the winds by tenfold fury driven,
 Till ocean blurred the sky, and hills in twain were riven.

17.

Where fell the scathe?—The beldames were amused,
Whom old and poverty had sorely crazed;
What, though their feeble senses were abused
By gleesome demon in the church-aisle raised,
With lion tail and eyes that baleful blazed!
Whose bagpipe's blare made all the roof to quake!
But ages yet unborn will stand amazed
At thy dread power, that could the wretches make
Believe these things all real, and swear them at the stake.

18.

But ah! thou filled'st the guilty heart with dread,
And brought the deeds of darkness to the day!
Who was it made the livid corse to bleed
At murderer's touch, and cause the gelid clay

By fancied movement all the truth betray ?
 Even from dry bones the drops of blood have sprung !
 'Twas thou Inquisitor !—whose mystic sway
 A shade of terror over nature hung ;
 A feeling more sublime than poet ever sung.

19.

Fearless the shepherd faced the midnight storm
 To save his flocks deep swathed amid the snow ;
 Though threatening clouds the face of heaven deform,
 The sailor feared not o'er the firth to row ;
 Dauntless the hind marched forth to meet the foe :
 For why, they knew, though earth and hell combined,
 In heaven were registered their days below ;
 That there was one well able and inclined
 To save them from the sword, the wave, and stormy wind.

20.

O ! blissful thought to poverty and age,

When troubles press and dangers sore belay !

This is their only stay, their anchorage ;

“ It is the will of heaven, let us obey !

“ Ill it befits the creatures of a day,

“ Beneath a father’s chastening to repine.”

This high belief in Providence’s sway,

In the eye of reason wears into decline ;

And soon that heavenly ray must ever cease to shine.

21.

Yet these were days of marvel—when our king,

As chronicles and sapient sages tell,

Stood with his priests and nobles in a ring,

Searching old beldame for the mark of hell,

The test of witchcraft and of devilish spell;
 And when I see a hag, the country's bane,
 With rancorous heart and tongue of malice fell,
 Blight youth and beauty with a burning stain,
 I wish for these old times and Stuarts back again.

22.

Haply 'tis weened that Scotland now is free
 Of witchcraft, and of spell o'er human life.
 Ah me!—ne'er since she rose out of the sea,
 Were they so deep, so dangerous, and so rife;
 The heart of man unequal to the strife
 Sinks down before the lightning of their eyes.
 O! it is meet that every maid and wife
 Some keen exorcist still should scrutinize,
 And bring them to the test, for all their sorceries.

23.

Much have I owed thee—Much may I repine,

Great Queen ! to see thy honours thus decay.

Among the mountain maids the power was thine,

On blest Saint Valentine's or Hallow Day.

Our's was the omen—their's was to obey :

Firm their belief, or most demurely feigned !

Each maid her cheek on lover's breast would lay,

And, sighing, grant the kiss so long refrained ;

'Twas sin to counteract what Providence ordained !

24.

O ! I remember, as young fancy grew,

How oft thou spoke'st in voice of distant rill ;

What sheeted forms thy plastic finger drew,

Throned on the shadow of the moonlight hill ;

Or in the glade so motionless and still
 That scarcely in this world I seemed to be ;
 High on the tempest sing thine anthem shrill ;
 Across the heaven upon the meteor flee,
 Or in the thunder speak with voice of majesty !

25.

All these are gone—The days of vision o'er ;
 The bard of fancy strikes a tuneless string.
 O ! if I wist to find thee here no more,
 My muse should wander on unwearied wing,
 To find thy dwelling by some lonely spring,
 Where Norway opes her forests to the gale ;
 The dell thy home, the cloud thy covering,
 The tuneful sea maid, and the spectre pale,
 Tending thy gloomy throne, amid heaven's awful veil.

26.

Or shall I seek thee where the Tana rolls

Her deep blue torrent to the northern main ;

Where many a shade of former huntsman prowls,

Where summer roses deck th' untrodden plain,

And beauteous fays and elves, a flickering train,

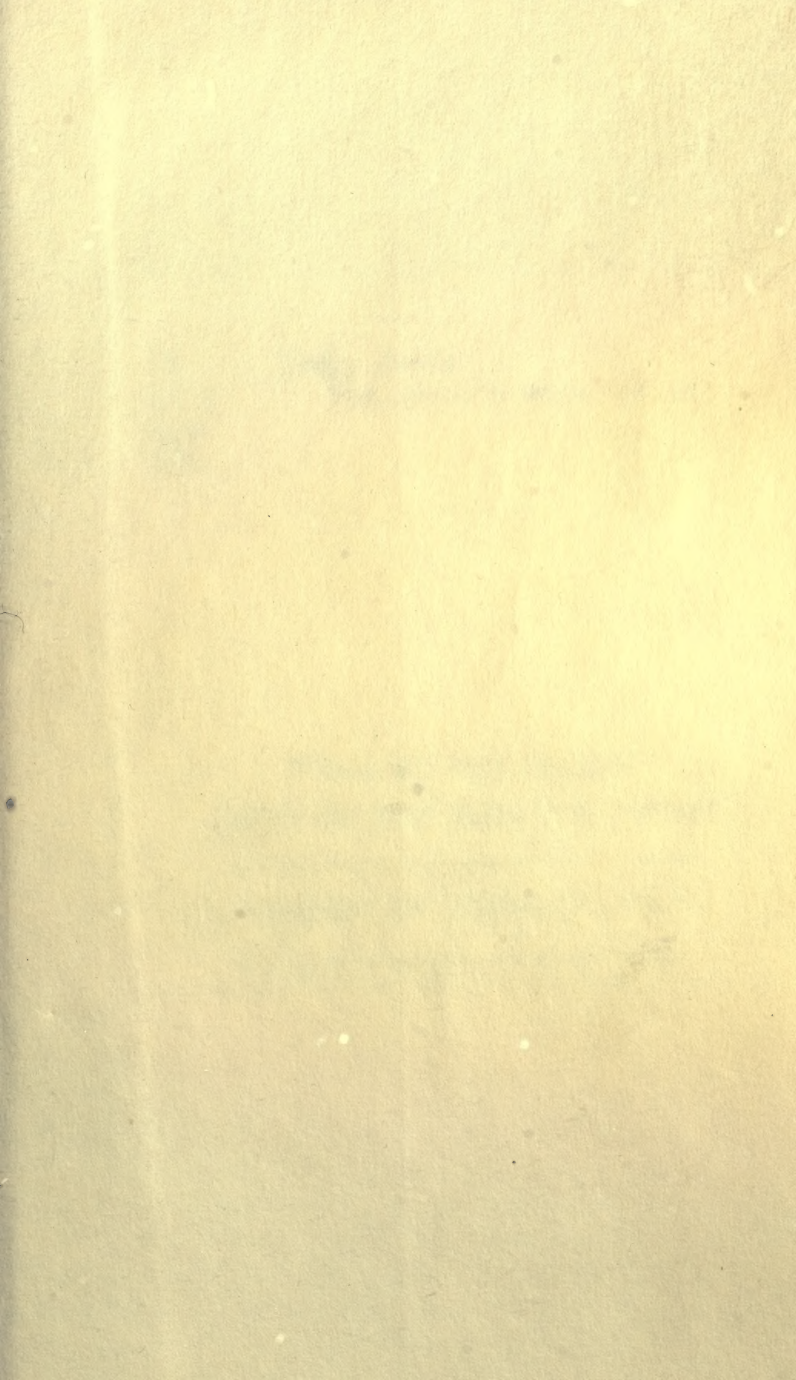
Dance with the foamy spirits of the sea.

O ! let me quake before thee once again,

And take one farewell on my bended knee,

Great ruler of the soul, which none can rule like thee !

FINIS.



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4791 The queen's wake 3d ed.
Q45
1814

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